



Medium Term Plan

Year Group: Nursery

Term: Autumn 1 (2026)

Learning Objectives

Key

Blue = Birth to 3 years

Green = 3 & 4 years

Enrichment activities/ WOW moments

Mystery box activities, looking at our baby photos

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self-Regulation/ Managing Self/ Building Relationships:

- Find ways to calm themselves, through being calmed and comforted by their key person.
- Express preferences and decisions. Start establishing autonomy.
- Engage with others through gesture, gaze and talk.
- Play with increasing confidence on their own and with other children, knowing their key person is available.
- Find ways of managing transitions e.g. from parent to key person.
- Develop friendships with other children.
- Safely explore emotions beyond their normal range through play and stories.
- **Develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community.**

Communication and Language

Listening, Attention and Understanding/ Speaking

- Copy what adults do, taking 'turns' in conversation and activities.
- Listen and respond to a simple instruction.
- Start to say how they are feeling, using words as well as actions.
- Listen to other people's talk with interest, although may be easily distracted.
- Develop pretend play e.g. putting baby to sleep, driving to shop.
- Listen to simple stories and understand what is happening with the help of pictures.
- Understand and act on longer sentences like 'Make teddy jump' or 'Find your coat.'

Physical Development

Gross Motor Skills/ Fine Motor Skills:

- Clap and stamp to music.
- Fit themselves into spaces like tunnels, dens, and large boxes, and move around in them.
- Learn to use the toilet with help and then independently.
- Sit on a push along wheeled toy, use a scooter or ride a tricycle.
- **Use large muscle movements to wave flags, streamers, paint and make marks.**

Theme All About Me

Literacy

Comprehension/ Reading/ Writing

- Join in with songs and rhymes, copying sounds, rhythm, tunes and tempo.
- Pay attention and respond to the pictures or the words.
- Develop play around favourite stories using props.
- Make marks on their picture to stand for their name.
- Copy finger movements and other gestures.
- Have favourite books and seek them out to share with an adult, child, or read alone.
- **Know that print has meaning.**

Mathematics

Number/ Numerical Patterns

- Take part in finger rhymes with numbers.
- Counting like behaviour, such as making sounds, pointing or saying some numbers in sequence.
- Count in everyday contexts, sometimes skipping numbers- 1,2,3,5.
- Climb and squeeze self into different types of spaces.
- Build with a range of resources.
- Complete inset puzzles.
- Compare sizes, weights etc. using gesture and language – bigger, little, smaller, high, low, tall heavy.
- **Select shapes appropriately: flat surfaces for building, a triangular prism for a room etc.**

Understanding the World

Past and Present/ People, Culture and Communities/ The Natural World

- Make connections between the features of their family and other families.
- Explore and respond to natural phenomena in their setting and on trips.
- **Use all of their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials**

Expressive Arts and Design

Creating with materials/ Being imaginative and Expressive

- Show attention to sounds and music.
- Move and dance to music.
- Explore their voices and enjoy making sounds.
- Join in with songs, rhymes and making sounds.
- Explore paint using fingers and other parts of their bodies as well as brushes and other tools.
- Enjoy and take part in action songs such as Twinkl Little Star.
- Explore different materials using their senses to explore them.
- Manipulate and play with different materials.
- Make simple models that express their ideas.