



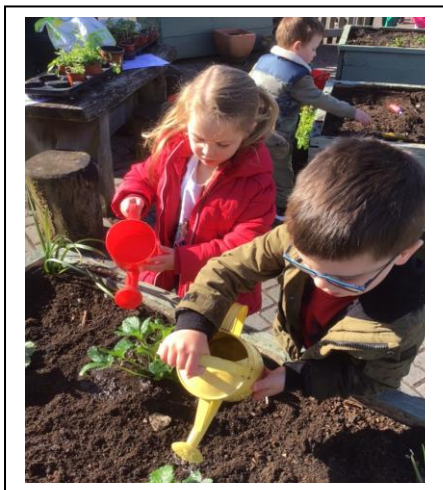
“Nurturing curiosity and inspiring imagination”

Ideas to support your child with understanding the world

As a parent you will know that young children are naturally curious and interested in everything around them. This endless interest helps them to learn from every experience they have – a bus journey, a walk to nursery or playing with toys in the bath. At Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School we actively encourage children to explore their learning environment; to use all their senses to look at things closely and investigate, ask questions, make predictions, and solve problems. During these wide ranging experiences children may meet visitors to nursery, people like the local police officer or firefighter, they will celebrate ‘special times’ from different cultures like Diwali, Easter and Chinese New Year. Your child will learn about their local area by taking a walk to the shop to buy fruit for snack time or to look at local buildings and find out more about what they are used for. Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School is very lucky to have our own minibus and we use this to develop children’s interests and broaden their experiences by taking short trips to places like the museum, local library, dance class or garden centre.

All of these experiences increase children’s knowledge and their sense of the world around them. Children learn about the different people in our society and different cultures, they learn about how some things change and some things stay the same, what things are, how they work and what things can do. We use technology within these activities, things like taking photos or videos of an event, using magnifiers to look at things more closely and explore how to take care of our environment through forest school and play experiences. Stories, songs and non-fiction books are also valuable ways in supporting children as they learn to ‘understand the world’

If you have any questions about your child’s learning and development please speak to your key worker who will be happy to help.



Did you know??

Talking with your child and sharing ‘information’ books is also a great way of enriching and broadening their vocabulary which helps to support their early reading

At home you could

- Talk with your child about who is in your family and other people they know. Encourage them to talk about events they remember, things like a birthday, a trip to the park, a new baby
- Share photos of your child as a baby and them now, talk about what has changed and what’s stayed the same
- When you are out with your child talk about the different people you may see and what they do – a shop keeper, crossing patrol person, police officer
- When you are out walking encourage your child to talk about the things they notice – things like snow in winter, fallen leaves in autumn. As questions like ‘ I wonder where the puddles go?’, ‘ Where do you think the rain comes from?’ Listen and accept your child’s response and give your own suggestions. You could use an iPad to find out the answer.
- Take a trip to the park or look around your garden and make a collection of interesting objects to talk about. Things like stones, bark, flowers, leaves, feathers. Talk about how they feel, how they are the same or different to each other.
- Show your child you are curious about things and have ideas by asking questions out loud, things like ‘ I wonder if...’, ‘ I’ve noticed that...’

At home you could

- Talk with your child about the things you notice; how the water pushes up when they try to push a plastic boat down in it, what happens to water when you put it in the freezer, how bread changes colour and texture when it's toasted and how you can't change it back, how chocolate melts when it's warm but changes back when it's cooled, how a cork floats but a stone sinks in water. Use words like change, melt, freeze, float, sink, stretch,
- Talk with your child about the things they notice about people, families and communities. Differences like a friend living with grandma and your child living with you, you may live in a house and a friend may live in a flat, your child may like ham sandwiches but their friend likes cheese because they don't eat meat. Answer your child's questions and always talk positively about different appearances, skin colours and hair types. Similarities could be things like both your child and their friend like to play football, you have a dog as a pet and so does your neighbour, your child has the same name as a friend at nursery.
- Plant some seeds and encourage your child to take care of them, things like bean or sunflower seeds are good. Talk about what seeds need to grow (water, air and light) and encourage your child to look closely and talk about the changes they see
- In the garden or at the park encourage your child to take care of the environment by putting any rubbish in the bin and 'just look' or handle very carefully any 'minibeast' – snail, worm, spider etc found.

Useful Websites



Biggleton – Learn about the different jobs people do in the community

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/biggleton>

Live shows – Theatre productions from Shakespeare to The Three Little Pigs

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/cbeebies-presents>

Junk Rescue – Using traditional crafts to recycle something old into something new

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/junk-rescue>

Let's Celebrate – Join children as they celebrate different faith and cultural festivals

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/lets-celebrate>

Maddie's Do You Know? – Join Maddie as she finds out how things work

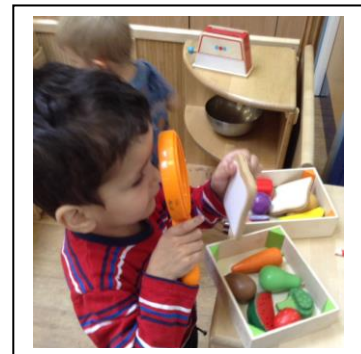
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/do-you-know>

Nina and the Neurons – Help Nina with exciting experiments: science, engineering and coding games on-line

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/nina-and-the-neurons>

Joining the local library will give your child lots of 'information' and story books to help them understand the world around them.

ORFORD JUBILEE HUB on Winwick Road is the nearest library to nursery



Our weekly home learning regularly includes forest school activities that you can try at home. Look out for these on Tapestry. We would love to see your posts!

IMPORTANT – Please remember to check all website links to ensure the content is appropriate before sharing with your child