

## CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER- JANUARY 2016.

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. Lets hope it's a good year for everyone!

During this term we will cover the 3 prime areas as always: Personal Social Emotional Development, Communication and Language & Physical Development.

Alongside these there are the four Specific areas of Learning: Literacy, Maths, Knowledge of the World & Expressive Arts.

To help us observe the children's achievements and learning in all these areas, we are using the topic of Journeys and Transport.

Journeys and Transport are lovely topics and prompt a lot of conversation, language and vocabulary. Children are egocentric and love to talk about themselves and their experiences! Holidays, trips out, journey to Pre School etc are all things we can talk about, draw, paint, observe and enjoy! The topic gives opportunity for all children to use observation skills, descriptive language, directions and imagination.

Different environments can be found, Seaside, Countryside, Towns, Cities, Jungles, Space! All exciting!

Parents and carers can sit and read, draw, paint explore different places with their child.

Drawing maps, Treasure Island etc.

Even on short journeys children can see number, letters on signs, and can see features of the environment. Or even borrow mums camera and take photos!

It would be nice if the children could bring in photos, maps, drawings, leaflets of different places, favourite places, friends homes etc to show us and talk about it. Thank-you.

Managing Feelings and managing Behaviour are the aspects of PSED, Sometimes very young children find it difficult to understand and express their feelings. Some children's language enables them to express themselves, sometimes combined with lack of confidence they find it very hard and tend to use inappropriate actions such as hitting, pushing, pulling. This is not aggression but a form of communication. As adults and parents we need to model good clear communication and teach children how to express themselves appropriately, this enables them to be social. Also children need boundaries not only for discipline but they help a child

feel safe and secure, but boundaries have to be consistent. We can use puppets, teddies dolls, drawings and colour to talk of feelings.

### Listening and Attention.

Another of this terms aspects. Both these 2 things help a child to be social, and to express themselves, and respond and communicate to others and importantly to take heed of what other children are saying. Aiding quality interaction. Being attentive is hard for the very young to sustain, we need to model it and help extend their attention span appropriate to their age. Praising them for both listening and being attentive helps to encourage the child to understand why we should listen and be attentive.

### Writing.

This is really making marks from simple lines to curves to enclosed spaces and then ascribe meanings to these early marks. To a young child these simple marks are writing. From this stage we need to show children signs, letters, books, posters etc help them understand there are marks that are drawing and marks that tell us things and from emergent writing later the child ends the mark making process with letters and true writing. We can use a variety of materials not just conventional pen and paper! Use mud and sticks, water and brushes, baby lotion on a tray, shaving foam, fingers in water or thick pasty paint. All these will develop mark making and writing. So if a child is resistant to pens have some creative fun with mud and a stick! Great!

### Just a few Reminders!

Wellies, scarves, hats, coats, gloves! Are all essential winter items for the children, we like to get outdoors as much as possible, taking the curriculum with us.

Children need fresh air, open spaces, and to explore physical activities using and developing different skills and equipment. They need to feel different weathers, temperatures, learn of safety and really enjoy being outside.

Finally.....we have been doing our on track assessments for each child, please ask any questions or relay any comments to us, we are a partnership!

Thank-you as always for your support especially for the Christmas Party! Also thank you for our cards and gifts.