

# Pre-School - Cluster Sheet

## Spring Term 2024

### Two



19<sup>th</sup> February – 28<sup>th</sup> March

#### What are we going to be learning?

A huge part of coming to pre-school is that children can learn how to socialise with their peers before they begin formal schooling. Children learn and develop by playing alongside their peers, and they will make better progress if they are happy mixing with other children and adults. Key social skills include: turn taking, listening to others, interacting, sharing and forming friendships.

It can be a misconception that children naturally understand how to manage social situations. They need to have strong, consistent role models that support positive interactions, so that they can learn how to manage socially and how to negotiate tricky situations as they arise.

Although we support social skills throughout our daily interactions, this term, we will be placing a strong focus on providing the children with positive strategies to be able to navigate; tricky situations, establish friendships and listen to one another. This builds on last terms focus on resilience.

#### How to support learning at home:

Listening and responding to requests, are key skills when learning how to form friendships. Encouraging your child to follow simple requests and to listen for short periods of time are both vital to future success. Turn taking and sharing are also important skills to learn but are not always easy! A simple way to support learning at home is by playing board games as a family e.g. snakes and ladders, lotto. Organising play dates with other children and taking your child out e.g. to the park, also provide opportunities to practise these early skills.

#### Background Artist: Kandinsky



Wassily Kandinsky was a painter and pioneer of abstract art. He is known for his intensive use of colour, and for his representations of music through art. Kandinsky is also famous for using colours to express emotions.

Over the next few weeks, we will use oil pastels to recreate Kandinsky's famous painting 'Circles'. We shall also explore how different colours make us feel and will reference the zones of regulation.

#### Focus Text: The Gruffalo's Child by Julia Donaldson



This half term, we shall be exploring the characters within the story. We shall think about the descriptions of each character and will have a go at describing each other e.g. colour of hair/eyes/key features.

We shall also, revisit how an Author and Illustrator contribute to a book and will look at other titles by Julia Donaldson and Alex Scheffler.

#### Focus Rhyme: Three Blind Mice



#### Background Music: Somewhere over the Rainbow sung by Eva Cassidy



This rendition of the iconic song features Eva Cassidy, who is accompanied by a guitar. Over the coming weeks, we shall be exploring the guitar as an instrument. This will include having a try on a child's size version and also welcoming Nicki, who will bring her guitar to play for the children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rd8VktR8xY>

#### Other Information:

One of the key areas of focus in an early years setting is on the physical development that is required to help a child move on to grip and work accurately with a writing tool.

Young children build their strength from the head downwards, and from the body outwards. You will have noticed how the first thing a baby does is to build the strength to support their head on their neck.

Next they will gradually build the strength to push their upper body up while lying down, and to roll over.

Eventually they will have enough power and control in their body to crawl, and at length to walk.

Before they can manipulate a fine writing tool, they will need to build up their 'core strength' – the muscles in the centre of their body – gradually working outwards from their shoulder to their elbow, until they can do the finer movements that are required to write by hand.

In order to build up these aspects of control, they will need to be offered lots of opportunities for both fine motor and gross motor play, as well as activities for building eye-to-hand coordination.

In Pre-School, we carefully plan activities that support our little learners to be able to build strength in each of these muscles, so that they are developmentally and physically able to hold writing tools. Banging with a hammer, walking along a balance beam, swinging from monkey bars, digging in the soil or the sand, threading beads or weaving – all these activities build up different aspects of strength, coordination and control.

For more information, follow the link below...

[Mark-making tips and hints for parents | PACEY](#)

#### Events, trips, visits, visitors to support this cluster of learning and any other notable dates:

Week beg – 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Week beg – 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Week beg – 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Week beg – 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Week beg – 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Week beg – 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Week beg 1 <sup>st</sup> April
Monday – First Day Back	Monday – Visit from Nicki and her guitar	Monday – Forest School	Monday – Forest School	Monday	Monday – Forest School	Monday – Easter Break
Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday – Easter Break
Wednesday - Forest School	Wednesday – Library	Wednesday	Wednesday - Library	Wednesday – Forest School	Wednesday – Library	Wednesday - Easter Break
Thursday	Thursday	Thursday – World Book Day (Visit from Amelia, a book editor – story time)	Thursday	Thursday	Thursday – Easter Bonnet Parade	Thursday – Easter Break
Friday - Library	Friday – Camp Fire	Friday – Library	Friday – Comic Relief (Pyjama Day)	Friday – Library	Friday – Good Friday	Friday - Easter Break