** Nursery – Spring Home Learning Activities - 2**



In Nursery during the month of April we continue our theme on Spring. This week we focus on The Farm. We talk about new life and baby animals.

Below are Farm Themed Spring Learning Activities under the six areas of learning.

**Personal, Social and Emotional:**

* Continue to encourage your child to explore new learning both indoors and outdoors, exploring in your garden and looking at plants and flowers, chat to your child about how plants grow and how they get from the farm to our plate.
* Continue to develop independence in encouraging your child to tidy up after themselves at home, helping at dinner time, setting the table, clearing up, helping to load the dishwasher etc. This level of independence is important as your child approaches Primary One, as they will have to tidy up independently after tasks, put away and look after their own belongings.
* Continue to support your child to stay on task and build up concentration when they are playing games, doing activities or whilst you read to them.
* Teach your child the Hail Mary. In term 3 the children learn Mary’s special prayer in preparation for the month of May. The children will be able to confidently say the Morning Prayer, Angel of God and Hail Mary.

**Language Development:**

* This week we encourage you to watch the following programme related to – **The Farm**

**‘Topsy and Tim go to the Farm’ this *can be found on You tube channel just type this title into the search engine***.

* + You can help **develop language** related to the programme by focussing on the following types of questions:
		- Where did Topsy and Tim go?
		- What did Mrs Stewart ask Topsy and Tim to do?
		- What did Topsy find? What was the name of the babies in the pond?
		- What animals scared Tim?
		- Can you remember what animals were in the meadow?
		- What did Farmer Stewart ask Topsy and Tim help him to do?
		- What animals was in the small shed? Can you remember how Topsy and Tim helped Farmer Stewart?
* Read the attached Book – **Good Night Animal Babies** – follow the activities at the bottom of the page.
* Create a list of Farm animals. Support your child by helping them to recognise the sounds that these animals make – play a sound imitations game.
* Listening Game: - sit out in your garden – sitting still and quiet name all the sounds you can hear outside – focus on your child ‘Sitting Still’ and using their ‘Listening Ears’.
* Support your child in by drawing or creating a list of animals – can your child name some of the baby animals.
* Continue to develop early writing skills by creating pictures of farm animals related to the story. Act as a scribe for your child. Write on their drawings what they are about. Use the pencil grip provided in your pack for correct finger placement.
* Remember to continue to **try and** **read daily** with your child, either story books from home, book trust NI or Libraries NI.

**Mathematical Development:**

* Support your child to count items around your home in small groups. If you have toy animals set them out and get your child to count them, sort them into groups by colour, size, how many legs etc
* Sort items into sets i.e. cow/not cow, brown/not brown – Talk about similarities and differences in them.
* Develop positional language – find a toy animal, doll or teddy at home. You will also need a basin or a box. Place the toy/teddy/doll in various positions around the basin/box and get your child to tell you where their toy is hiding. Develop the following positional language: - **in, on, under, behind, in front of, beside, below, above, near**. (i.e.) Encourage your child to say - *The cow is behind the box.*

You can extend this game by letting your child hide the toy and you tell them where the toy is at, in this way you have a great opportunity to correctly model the language for your child.

* Capacity – use milk cartons and/or bottles of a variety of sizes – allow your child to fill and empty the bottles – talk about and use the terms full/empty. Which holds more/less? (remember this also allows for a great fine motor activity – screwing on and off the lids on the bottles)

**World Around Us:**

* Use the following link on **Cbeebies:** Games - **Topsy and Tim at the Farm:** you will find games for matching, sorting and sizing.
* Look at pictures of farm animals with your child, in books or online – talk about the different features of different animals with your child (i.e.) feathers, fur, wool, snout, beak, mouth, hoof, trotters, webbed feet, how many legs, their colours.
* Using any building blocks from home investigate models by building a farm shed – create sheds of different sizes, colours and shapes.
* Outdoor play – using an old egg box – go outdoors and collect different items from the garden use these items to create a picture or model of a farm animal.

**The Arts:**

* Draw pictures of your favourite animals on paper or pieces of cardboard (old cereal boxes). Colour them and let your child cut them out using the scissors provided.
* *Singing/Rhymes (many of these rhymes are available to watch on the kids you tube zone)*
* ***The Animals on the Farm – Super Simple Songs***
* ***Chicken Count***
* ***Ten Little Tractors***
* ***Little Bo Peep***

**Do not forget the more traditional rhymes** ***Baa Baa Black Sheep***

 ***Little Boy Blue***

 ***Five Little Ducks***

 ***Old MacDonald***

Try making a model of an animal using junk materials from your recycling box.

**Physical Development:**

* **Animal Bop** – create a fun game making movements like the farm animals:
	+ Gallop like a horse, flap like a chick, waddle like a duck, peck like a chicken, pounce like a cat, bounce like a bunny, run like a dog, roll like a pig, leap like a frog.
* Continue to work on the skills we were learning during our fundamental movement programme - **balancing on our feet, feet and hands, one foot, tummy, bottom, knees** etc.
* Before Easter we encouraged you to practice throwing skills with your child, over the next week we would like you to continue to practice catching skills using a large ball.
* Please continue to encourage correct pencil grip/scissor grip, allow your child plenty of practice – use the help sheets, pencils and scissors from your home learning pack.

Lots of cutting practice is essential in preparation for going to Primary One.