



# Railway Street Nursery School

## May Topic Information

### Topics

During May our theme will be Minibeasts, we will focus all colours and our shape will be the semi-circle.

### Pro Social Behaviour Focus

To follow on from last month we will encourage focused, settled and productive play. Children will be reminded to be 'busy bees'.

### INDEPENDENCE

At this stage of the year the children are all becoming very independent in all aspects of the nursery day. For those children who are showing an interest in writing their name, staff will support them with correct formation and encourage them to write their name on their work to label it. If you are unsure of correct letter formation please ask the staff and they will be happy to assist with any queries. We want to establish good habits.

### SAND

At the sand trays the children will be concentrating on developing their cooperative play skills as they work with moulds and investigative resources. The staff will encourage the children to problem solve as they design and build with construction toys and natural materials to explore minibeasts. Staff will also build on the children's knowledge of The World Around Us as they use sorting animals and bugs to sort for shape, type and size. In play at the sand the children will be supported as they gain understanding of and use positional language such as in, on, under, above, behind etc. We continue to build up the resources in the sand area which will allow the children access to additional materials to extend and deepen their involvement.

### Water

This month the children will be using construction materials in the water tray which will allow them to discover the different forces at work as they build both under and above water. Using pipettes and droppers will encourage the children to develop muscle control, precision and accuracy when squeezing and releasing, while further developing hand eye co-ordination and the use of two hands. Using a variety of containers will further extend the children's awareness of volume and capacity.

### CREATIVE AND AESTHETIC AREAS

This month the children will explore how to join various sized boxes together to create minibeasts. This activity will also support their ability to plan and carry through a project to a successful conclusion. Various collage activities will support and extend the children's ability to work together as a group, their ability to describe what they are creating and how they intend to achieve it and will also expand their spatial awareness skills. The children will also engage in some paper maché using balloons which will allow them to further discover how materials can change.

### Malleable

Creating minibeasts this month with dough will help the children work on consolidating their counting skills and also boost their language skills as they chat about what they are creating. We will also work on extending the children's vocabulary. Staff will also use the dough to stimulate the children's cooperative skills and to reinforce their concept of length.

### Role Play and House Corner

Be prepared for lots of excitement this month as the children experience our Minibeast Explorer's Hut! Staff will be supporting and extending language, encouraging the children to explore, investigate, be creative and imaginative. In the home corner the addition of babies, cots, changing mats etc will extend the children's role play and language skills as they talk about the human life cycle and care for the babies. Staff will also use this opportunity to work on the use of picture cues when telling a story and will be further reinforcing how we read print from left to right.

### FLOOR PLAY

Work in this area will focus on our minibeast theme and the children will be working on constructing minibeast hotels using blocks and a variety of construction materials. A range of minibeasts will extend the children's ability to play imaginatively and creatively.

### SMALL IMAGINATIVE PLAY

This month we will work on Early Mathematical Development as the children use the minibeast puppets and plastic minibeasts to consolidate their sorting and grouping skills. Staff will incorporate the minibeast hotel and snail centre into play so the children can make comparisons. The children's language will be extended as they name and become familiar with various minibeasts.

### Language and Literacy

This month we will focus on further developing pre-writing skills, particularly reinforcing that we read and write from left to right. Staff will also work to extend minibeast related vocabulary, auditory and visual discrimination skills using a variety of games.

### MATHS AREA

The children will be using Counting Cakes, minibeast games, measuring worms, minibeast sorting set and number bugs to reinforce their counting and measuring skills. They will also use pattern beads, cubes, pegs and logicolouredo to reinforce their awareness of pattern, their sequencing skills and their concept of shape.

### Mark Making

The focus in this area will be on pencil grip and control and staff will also be reinforcing working from left to right and the children's awareness of pattern. The children will develop pre-writing skills as they make small hand and finger movements using punching trays and clipping links etc.

### CONSTRUCTION

The children will use a variety of equipment to explore how to join things. Staff will also challenge the children to fully use the space available to them as they work with three dimensional shapes.

### Outdoor

The emphasis this month will be on exploration and investigation and we look forward to a minibeast hunt with the children. Staff will encourage the children to engage in imaginative play scenarios, concentrating particularly on improving their communication skills. We hope to use the parachute to work on teamwork and cooperation and, if the sun shines we will be working on large scale art projects outside.