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| \\wosen-file01\staffhome$\lgreen\Downloads\just bird (1).jpg | Week commencing: 8/3/21  Unit theme: How does it grow?  Story: The Gardener’s seeds  Weekly theme: Wheat | | \\wosen-file01\staffhome$\lgreen\Downloads\Footsteps logo (1).jpg |
| Heron (Woodhouse Learning) | | | |
| Communication activities | | Cognition (Maths-based) activities | |
| **Help your child to engage with fun stories and musical activities through actions and signs**  **This half term, our focus skill is: Making choices.**  **The learning intention is:**  To be able to communicate preferences.  **Activity ideas**   * **Reading**   Read the story ‘The Gardener’s Seeds’ (See PowerPoint on the school website). Encourage your child to follow instructions to turn the page (if printed) or click onto the next slide (if reading on a computer). Support them to point out characters/objects in the story and to copy the Makaton signs – see ‘The gardener’s Seeds Makaton Signs’ resource on the school website.     * **Music**   Listen to songs about the farming! Encourage your child to choose which song to listen to by clicking on the pictures in the ‘Farm songs’ PowerPoint on the school website, or print off the symbols on the first page to use for PECS.     * **Tastes and smells**   So many delicious things are made from wheat! Taste and smell cereals, pizzas, bread, cake, etc (or gluten free options if required). Encourage your child to make choices between different options and to communicate their preferences. See ‘Preference Symbols’ resource on the website.  The article below has some great tips on cooking with children with special needs.  https://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2014/02/26/5-ways-to-get-your-child-with-special-needs-involved-in-the-kitchen/ | | **There are lots of ways to learn about maths around the house. Doing puzzles, playing games and exploring house equipment are all great ways to practise maths skills.**  **This half term, our focus skill is: Measure – Capacity.**  **The learning intention is:**  To be able to make comparisons between objects.  **Activity ideas**   * **Cooking**   Cooking can also be a great way to engage children with exploring objects of different shapes and sizes. Celebrate how delicious wheat can be when made into a delicious cake! Encourage your child to follow the simple recipe (see ‘Cake Recipe’ on the school website) and measure ingredients by filling up cups.     * **Art**   Try making your own frozen paints for farm-themed art (see printable ‘Farm Colouring Sheets’ resources on the school website) by freezing water and food colouring in ice cube trays. Encourage your child to experiment with adding different amounts of the liquids – Can you make a brighter colour by adding more food colouring? Can you find a container to make a bigger paint stick?     * **Water play**   Water play can be very motivating for our pupils and great way to support them to explore capacity. Use any outdoor space you have to get really messy, or you could incorporate water play into bath/shower time by having a range of different containers to fill with water. If you have the resources/space to plant some real seeds then this is a great activity to explore different containers, such as watering cans, jugs, cups, bottles, etc.  Key vocabulary to focus on: full, empty, more, less. | |
| Sensory activities | | Physical activities | |
| **Sensory activities can be extremely motivating, develop attention skills and help your child to self-regulate.**   * **Art**   Skill: Using a natural materials  Using natural materials can be a great way to get creative without having to buy lots of art supplies. See examples below – nature playdough, pinecone painting and leaf portraits.     * **Tactile**   Skill: Fine motor movements  Make a wheat/flour sensory bin and encourage your child to develop their fine motor skills by using their fingers to pick up small object, post and thread.   * Moon sand (flour and oil) <https://adventuresinroadschooling.com/homemade-moon-sand/> * Puffed wheat (dyed different colours)   <https://www.andnextcomesl.com/2014/08/rainbow-puffed-wheat-how-to-dye-cereal.html>     * **Sensory walk**   Skill: Exploring the environment  Enjoy some time out in the fresh air and see if you can find everything on the ‘Winter Hunt Checklist’ printable resource on the website. | | **Physical activity is great to keep our minds active and burn lots of energy!**   * **Dance**   Skill: Gross motor movements  Encourage your child to copy the actions to this fun insect dance! Search on YouTube for ‘Learn to dance: Can you Plant a Bean’  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCKEdDEr82k>     * **Ball skills**   Skill: Throwing underarm  Encourage your child to throw a ball or beanbag towards you or at a target, e.g. at a wall or into a bucket.   * **Jumping**   Skill: Body awareness  Encourage your child to jump on the spot, forwards, backwards and sideways! See printable resource ‘Jumping Visuals’ on the website. | |
| Additional learning links | | | |
| * Start the day with a ‘good morning’ routine – See example PowerPoint on the school website (Click ‘enable content’ when opening the PowerPoint to ensure videos will open) * Search on YouTube for educational songs, e.g. ‘Barefoot Books’ or ‘The Learning Station’ * Cbeebies.com – games, TV shows and songs. ‘Something Special’ is great for teaching children (and the rest of the family!) Makaton signs. * TACPAC – See information sheet and example PowerPoint on the school website. Click on the musical notes symbol for links to songs. * Follow ‘Gina Davies Autism Centre’ on Facebook to find out more about the *Attention Autism* programme that we use in school and get tips on how you could replicate this at home, either by watching the videos with your child or creating your own session <https://www.facebook.com/ginadaviesautism/posts/> * Yoga/relaxation session – See PowerPoint on the school website | | | |
| Other information | | | |
| * We have put together an example timetable to help you structure your day – See ‘Footsteps Daily Routine Example’ on the school website. Please adapt this for your child and include as much or as little of the content as you feel appropriate. Symbols can be printed out and used with the ‘Now and next’ board to support your child to understand their routine. * Please feel free to share any photos or achievements on Dojo or the school Twitter page. * If you need any further information, or would like a pack of these resources delivered to your home, you can email me at jessica.arnold@westoaksschool.co.uk | | | |