

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development:



- We are trying our best to use knives and forks when eating our dinner in Nursery. Encourage your child to sit at a table (*without distractions e.g. iPad, T.V.*) and to use a knife and fork to cut and lift food to his/her mouth. This can be tricky, so your child may need some help. (See our website, [GRTL tab](#), for some tips on helping to develop this skill.)
- We use lots of different puzzles in Nursery. Encourage your child to persevere with a puzzle or a task that **at first** seems hard. This will be good for their growing sense of **'I CAN do this....!'**

### Early Mathematical Experiences:



- Play some simple **board games**, where your child can move forward one+ spaces at a time e.g. Ludo or Snakes and Ladders. Let your child look at the **dice/die**. Talk about the number of dots/colours on the dice/die. Encourage taking turns by using 'First...then...next'.
- Encourage your child to match lids to saucepans and lids to containers. This will help your child to look carefully at how things fit together and relate to each other. (*The ability to make these connections is a very important aspect of Maths*).

### World Around Us:



- Fill an ice cube tray with water. Put it into the freezer. Ask your child what they think will happen? Leave it overnight, and let your child take it from the freezer. Experiment with different ways of melting the ice. Try putting the ice in a container on top of a warm radiator. Or pour warm water over the ice cubes. Maybe freeze some small toys in your ice cubes and then try to release the toys! This is super fun.
- Look out for **Winter birds**. Our birds are hungry at this time of year. Recycled yoghurt pots are great for making bird feeders with your child or leave some seeds out to attract the birds.
- Try 'Winter Woodland Detective' Trail on SNS website.

January  
2021



Home  
Learning

### Language Development:



- There are some lovely **Winter** stories to enjoy together. Have a look at the websites below:
  - <https://youtu.be/YBKfbo60jll>
  - <https://youtu.be/kL36gMrHJaI>
- Following reading the stories, encourage your child to talk about what is happening in the story, and begin to predict what might happen next. When the story is finished, encourage your child to retell the story.
- We are having fun exploring rhyming words. Have a look at the [GRTL tab](#) for ideas for this at home. The document is entitled 'Nursery Rhyme Time'

### Physical Development & Movement:



- If you have some wool, cord or string, let your child feed penne pasta through to make a necklace. Your child can colour the **pasta** with markers or paint when they have finished. This is great for developing fine motor skills. (See the [GRTL tab](#) on our website for tips and ideas for Fine Motor skills development).
- **Hopscotch** – Chalked on the ground - toss a small object into numbered squares outlined on the ground and then hop or jump through the spaces and retrieve the object.

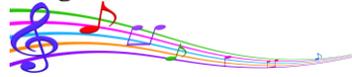


### The Arts:



- Get some cotton ear buds and glue. Work with your child to make a **snowflake** design on a coloured piece of paper or card (*or you can cut up a cereal box*).
- Gather some loose twigs and thick sticks (or small branches). Work with your child to make a winter tree. Take a photo and send to your child's teacher. We love to see their creations.
- Listen for the different **Winter birdsongs**. We have been noticing these in Nursery during our 'Plant and Play' sessions. The children also like to show their dance moves like the birds!

### Songs We Have Been Learning:



#### I'm a Little Penguin

(Tune: I'm a Little Teapot)

I'm a little penguin  
Black and white.  
Stout and fluffy,  
What a sight!  
I can't fly,  
But I love to swim.  
So I'll waddle to the water,  
And dive right in!

#### Put Your Coat On

<https://youtu.be/o2IIQaUqWIY>

1 Put your **coat** on, put your **coat** on  
Make yourself nice and cosy  
Put your **coat** on. Put your **coat** on  
Come along out to play.

2 Put your **hat** on, put your **hat** on.....

3 Put your **scarf** on, put your **scarf** on.....



4 Put your **boots** on, put your **boots** on.....

5 Put your **gloves** on, put your **gloves** on.....

### Decorate a Winter Biscuit:

#### Ingredients:

- Digestive/Rich Tea biscuit
- Icing Sugar (white)
- Jelly tots/smarties or small marshmallows or raisins

#### Method:

- 1 Mix together icing sugar, until set.
- 2 Using a small spoon, you're your child drizzle it over the biscuit.
- 3 Add some yummy toppings.



### Other Useful Links/Ideas:



#### NI Forest School Ideas

[www.forestschoolawards.org](http://www.forestschoolawards.org)

- 1 Twenty things to do with a stick (on *Home Learning* tab)
- 2 Winter Wonderland Detective (on *Home Learning* tab)

#### Outdoor Learning

Children learn so well when they are in their natural environment. Please see the 'GRTL' tab on our website for an **Early education** parent leaflet on 'Go Out to Play and Learn.'

#### Positive Parenting

**Positive Parenting** Information from **NSPCC**. This has been uploaded to the **GRTL tab** on our SNS website.

Please see the 'Parents' tab on our website (<https://www.shaftesburynursery.co.uk>) Click 'Information for Parents'. The 'What Just Happened' booklet has been produced to help parents and carers cope with the COVID-19 experience.

On the 'Home Learning' tab on our website there is a leaflet on 'Play, Wellbeing and Mental Health.'