

Willow Room's Home Learning

Term 4 - 2024-2025



It is amazing to see that we have reached the final term of 2024 -25 and we have all been lucky enough to watch the amazing journey all of the children have been on this academic year!. During this term, in school, we will be theming our activities around our main topic; on the farm. We have planned and suggested a selection of activities that will support communication, exploration of your child's sensory environment, making connections, literacy, attention and functional movement. These are only ideas and use things that are either provided or that you may have around the house.



KIND



AMBITIOUS



CHILD-CENTERED



INSPIRATIONAL



COLLABORATIVE

A visit to the farm



Mr Tumble is a firm favourite of all children. Why not join him as he visits the farm.

Using your child's PODD book you can match the animals he meets with the visuals in the PODD supporting your child build the connections between the imagery on the screen and in their PODD.



Vegetable printing



Down on the farm we can find lots of vegetables growing in the fields. Why not use some left over vegetables as painting tools for your child to explore. This activity not only introduces the children to different vegetables but you can also use their PODD/AAC to explore colours, either matching the colour of the vegetable to the colour in their PODD or using their PODD to choose a colour they would like to paint with.

When out an about at the supermarket why not try and look for different vegetables for your child to see and feel? Many vegetables have a variety of textures for the children to feel and explore.

Numbers

Farm Themed Counting Songs & Activities

Five Little Ducks



You will need:
A Bowl of Water
5 Plastic Ducks

1. Float the 5 plastic ducks on the water.
2. Sing the Song. 'Five Little Ducks'
3. Can your child remove one duck at a time as you sing the song?
4. Count remaining ducks and continue song until there are no ducks left.
5. If possible, write the number each time you count the ducks to both show a visual representation on the number and also an auditory cue from singing.

5 bottles sitting on a wall

What you will need:

Five Plastic Bottles (you can vary the number of these)

Soft Balls/Beanbags

Activity:

This activity is sung to the rhyme, 'Ten Green Bottles'. When singing, replace with '5 Green' 'Milk' Bottles.

Line up five empty milk cartons/bottles.

Have your child take it in turns to throw a ball/beanbag at the milk cartons/bottles.

Count how many milk cartons/bottles they have knocked over.

Adjust this to the number in the rhyme e.g., if your child knocks over three cartons/bottles with their ball/beanbag you can sing '3 Green' 'Milk' Bottles sitting on the wall.'

Five milk cartons sitting on the wall...and if three milk cartons get knocked over by a ball...they'll be two milk cartons sitting on the wall.



Muddy animal wash



The farm can be a very messy place and the animals can get very muddy at times. At home if you have some farm animals why not recreate this with a muddy animal wash station.

This idea is perfect for even the littlest explorer, and is wonderful when paired with a favourite farm story or song.

Sensory play is a firm favourite and is such a vital way for children to explore the world and have fun in a carefree way. This 'wash the muddy farm animals' sensory play activity is fun for everyone and appeals to all kids who love to both get messy and play in water too!

To create this sensory tub play you will need:

chocolate pudding mix (e.g. 2 sachets of Angel Delight)

Shredded Wheat (or another, similar looking cereal)

rosemary (This adds an additional sensory element but is not essential.)

plastic farm animal toys

plastic and metal tubs

sponges, bubbles and water

Have fun clearing up the messy animals on the farm!

Sensory Sound Story

“The Farmyard Morning” is a delightful, interactive resource designed to immerse learners in the sights, sounds, and sensations of a bustling farm. The digital soundboard on the below link follows a farmer named Pat through a day of waking up, tending to animals, working the land, and resting at day’s end.

Crafted specifically for young learners, it blends auditory cues with sensory experiences to create an engaging, relatable adventure.

Why not add the additional elements of touch to enhance the story further?

Have fun exploring the farm with Pat and all of the animals she finds on the farm.



The Little Red Hen Bread Rolls Recipe Sheet

Food plays a big part in the life of a farm and we are lucky enough to be able to get lots of fantastic ingredients from here.

Even if your child is PEG fed or on a restricted or blended diet, exploring the textures of recipe ingredients allows for sensory learning input and is a great opportunity to use their communication book or device to find out their thoughts on each texture/smell. It will be messy but good fun! This is a good activity to do with your child and their sibling(s).

On the next page you will find a simple bread roll recipe for you to refer to if you want to give this a go.

Why not read the story of the Little Red Hen prior to/after the cooking experience (link to suggested version of the story below) and draw comparisons between your baking and the hard work the hen was doing at the farm!



Equipment:

Large mixing bowl
Sieve
Tablespoon
Teaspoon Wooden Spoon
Cling Film
Measuring jug

Ingredients:

1kg white bread flour
2 sachets of dried yeast
2 tbsp vegetable oil
550-600ml water
Extra flour and oil for dusting and brushing
Pinch of salt

Method

1. Weigh the flour and sieve into the large bowl.
2. Add the salt and dried yeast, spoon in the oil, add the water.
3. Mix the oil and water into the flour with the wooden spoon until the dough is soft but not sticky. If it is too wet, add some more flour, if it is too dry add a bit more water.
4. Turn the dough onto a board or a clean work surface.
5. Knead by pulling and rolling the dough backwards and forwards.
6. Keep kneading for 8 to 10 minutes until the dough is smooth and springy.



7. Put back in the mixing bowl and cover with an oiled piece of cling film.
8. Leave the dough in a warm place for at least an hour until it has doubled in size and feels spongy. (The cling film allows you and the children to see what is happening!)
9. Tip the dough out on the board and knead for a minute or two.
10. Divide the dough into roll-sized portions and form into tight balls.
11. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes at 200°C.

Remember it's the process and not the result that will support meaningful learning. The finished item can be eaten by family members or crumbled up and used as a sensory activity for your child to feel with hands or feet.

Old McDonald had a farm: Story Massage



Down on the farm is a super topic with lots of musical elements which can be used to support learning. Through using a familiar song why not try a story massage with your child?

The Story Massage Programme is a really accessible way to help children engage with stories in a meaningful way. It is also wonderful for aiding communication. This example used Old McDonald as the foundation from which to base your massage on.



We hope you have fun exploring and trying out these activities with your child at home. Please let us know how you get on. We love to get photos of the work you do at home and it creates a super talking point in class as well.

Please let us know if you need any help too. We are more than happy to help!

THANK
YOU

Vicki, Catherine and Karen