

Roots Newsletter - Spring 1

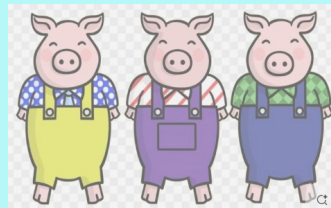


The children are making wonderful progress. Key workers are working closely with each child to understand their interests and respond to their individual needs and next steps. We are seeing lovely friendships forming, and the children are growing in confidence as they try new things and continue exploring the world around them.

This half term, our theme is 'Terrific Tales'

Our focus for this half term is on building their early communication and literacy skills. Children will be supported to **handle books carefully**, turning pages independently and showing interest in pictures and stories. They will be encouraged to **join in with songs and rhymes**, helping to build listening and language skills.

We will also be practising listening to **longer stories**, recalling what has been said, and joining in with repeated refrains. Throughout the half term, the children will explore **traditional tales**, learning key story elements and beginning to identify familiar characters.



Our 3 goals this half term are:

1. **Develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination** through using a variety of objects and tools.

2. **Begin to imitate everyday events** through role play, developing understanding and social skills.

3. **Learn and use new vocabulary linked to seasonal changes**, exploring the world around them.



5 Simple Traditional Tales Activities to try at home

1. Play with story toys - Use toys or objects from the story, such as a small basket, cloth, or soft toy. Encourage your child to act out parts of the story, like Little Red Riding Hood carrying her basket to Grandma. This helps children understand events in the story and use their imagination.

2. Pretend to be characters - Dress up with simple props like hats, scarves, or masks, or use toys to pretend to be story characters. Encourage your child to copy what the characters do, like tiptoeing like the wolf or hopping like the hare. This develops role play and social understanding.

3. Make story sounds - Use clapping, tapping, or shaking objects to make sounds from the story. For example, shake a container for rain in *The Three Little Pigs* or clap when the Big Bad Wolf knocks on the door. This supports listening, attention, and sequencing skills.

4. Say repeated words - Pause during the story and encourage your child to say repeated words or phrases, such as "I'll huff and I'll puff." This helps with memory, language development, and participation in storytelling.

5. Look at story pictures - Encourage your child to point to characters or scenes in the book and talk about what is happening. Ask simple questions like "Where is the wolf?" or "What is Red Riding Hood carrying?" This supports comprehension, vocabulary, and observation skills.

