

Circle Times

Circle Times (Adult-led)

Circle times are when we all come together as a group. We sing the 'Welcome Song' at the beginning of the first Circle Time, and the 'Goodbye Song' at the end of the second Circle Time. This promotes a sense of time, and a sense of belonging.

We sing assorted songs, poems, finger rhymes and have stories. Sometimes, we move to the music. We are introduced to numbers, shapes and colours, and we ask and answer questions, eg about what we did at the weekend.

Objectives for Circle Times

- take pleasure in making and listening to a wide variety of sounds
- listen to learn, create and use ever increasing vocabulary and sentence construction, incorporating gestures, intonation, rhythm and phrasing in order to communicate effectively
- respond to, describe, question and explain stories and events, experiences and ideas
- understand and respond to language as a powerful means of widening contacts, sharing feelings, experiences and thoughts
- use language to describe, reflect upon and connect ideas, firstly in the here and now, and then anticipating what is happening next and to relive past experiences
- enjoy experimenting with babbling, recognising playing with and repeating rhythmic patterns in rhymes and stories in order to represent objects around them, whilst also able to distinguish one sound from another
- show an interest in and respond to words, stories, songs, poems, rhymes and jingles, expressing preferences
- begin to be aware of the way stories are structured, illustrated and printed, and suggesting how a story might end
- understand the concept of a word
- enjoy finding nose, eyes or tummy as part of naming games
- develop an awareness of number names through action rhymes and songs, reciting some spontaneously in sequence in their play

You will find more details on our website about Circle Time Objectives.

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Outdoor Craft Activity

Outdoor Craft Activity (Adult-led)

Each day, a different, but theme-related activity is set up outside by the teacher, with all the necessary equipment made readily available. The children may choose to participate, or not. One example is making a snowman for Christmas, using cotton wool.

Objectives for the Outdoor Craft Activity

- begin to make, examine, distinguish and give meaning to the marks they draw and paint and others that they see
- develop hand and eye movements and show increasing control when manipulating objects, eg when drawing lines and circles
- create, experiment and differentiate using blocks, colour, textures, spaces, marks and movements using the whole body

Free Play

Free Play (Child-Led)

Every day, a wide choice of activities is offered, giving the children opportunities to explore indoors eg toys, musical instruments, puzzles, and outdoors, eg play dough, water play and ride-on toys. Children can develop their cognitive and physical skills alone, or in a group.

Objectives for Free Play

- distinguish between quantities, recognising that a group of objects is more than one, using 'more' and 'a lot'
- recognise groups with one, two or three objects sometimes matching number and quantity correctly
- create and experiment with symbols and marks
- organise, arrange and categorise objects, recognising the overall total is still the same
- experiment with blocks and jigsaw pieces noticing and replicating simple shapes and patterns in the environment and talking about them
- enjoy comparing filling and emptying containers, exploring the concepts of 'more than' and 'enough'.
- show an interest in why things happen and how things work, sometimes focusing their enquiries on particular features and widening their scope of investigation in their play
- show curiosity in building opening and closing pushing and pulling pieces
- beginning to try out a range of tools and techniques investigating and joining various construction materials
- show interest in toys with parts that are pressed or lifted in order to achieve effects such as sounds, movements or new images
- know how to operate simple I.C.T. equipment, such as battery operated toys, and the sound puzzle
- develop interest in the environment, showing curiosity about aspects of the world around them
- explore, imitate and improvise with a range of tools and materials, eg putting objects in and out of containers, making marks in damp sand, paste or paint or use blocks to make simple structures, with increasing control
- understand that equipment and tools have to be used safely
- repeating patterns of play, developing preferences for specific forms of expression
- construct 2D and 3D structures, using lines, shapes and blocks, making enclosures and creating space
- notice and imitate what adults do, recreating a range of situations when the adult is not there
- using available resources to create props to support role play

Outdoor Physical Play

(Adult or Child-led)

We have a great outdoor space for physical play, with a range of equipment including slides, climbing frames, playhouses, ride-on toys, balls, and so on. The children may also participate in organised games such as 'Hide and Seek' or circle games, such as 'Ring a ring a roses'.

Objectives for Outdoor physical Play

- make strong movements to develop increasing mobility, delighting freedom and new perspectives, and in setting themselves new challenges
- gaining awareness of their body's ability to create and control movements, showing awareness of the space around themselves and respect for the space of others
- practise and improve physical skills