

# Nursery Newsletter – Summer 1

This half term, Nursery's topic is **Farms**. We have read the book 'Farm animals' and found out lots of information about the different animals that live on a farm and what their babies are called.

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## Farms

### Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Circle time game – pass a soft toy farm animal around the circle. When a child is holding the animal, it is their turn to speak. Encourage children to name their favourite farm animal and give reasons why.
- Encourage the children to work together in teams to create farms and animal homes in the block/construction area.
- Hide some toy baby farm animals around the setting and encourage children to work together to find the animals and place them with the toy adult animals.

### Communication & Language

- Place a handful of small world farm animals in the centre of the circle and name each creature with the children. Tell the children to close their eyes, remove one of the toys and ask them to talk to a friend and try to work out which animal has run away.
- Line a large activity tray with brown/ green material or cereal grains and place some small world farm animals on top. Encourage children to take it in turns to talk about the different animals they can see.

### Maths

- Play a counting game using small world farm animals. Place the toys onto pieces of yellow and green paper and count them as a group. Move the toys into different arrangements and count again. Create sets of different amounts of toys to discuss and compare.
- Provide some shallow trays of shaving foam mixed with a few drops of blue food colouring. Encourage the children to explore mark making in the trays to represent different numbers.
- Spread number tiles, 1-10, on the floor and add a basket of small world farm animals. The children can match the quantity of toys to the numeral written on the tile.

### Optional Homework Activities

- Provide a large, empty cardboard box and packaging for your child to use to make a model tractor. Your child could decorate the box drawing large wheels on the sides. They may also be able to sit inside the box and drive around their role-play farm!
- Take your child to a farm to see some animals and crops growing. Take photographs and talk about these back at home.
- Provide a selection of small world animals for children to use in sorting games. Encourage children to sort the toys in different ways, such as type of animal, colour or size.

### Physical Development

- Draw some farm animals using chalk. Encourage children to add details to the pictures, such as spots or tails.
- Play a movement game based on different types of farm animals. Children could explore using the space and create different actions for the farm animals, such as galloping like a horse, rolling in mud like a pig, waddling like a duck or pecking like a chicken. They could also practise standing still like a scarecrow!
- Provide some brown and green playdough, along with small world farm animals, for children to explore.

### Literacy

- Play a farm-themed rhyming game. Challenge children to identify words that rhyme with: hen, cat, dog and pig.
- Provide some shallow trays of coloured rice or grains and encourage the children to explore mark making in the trays.
- Play a sound blending game – display a selection of small world farm animals and say the name once, split into individual sounds for children to identify, such as p-i-g or d-u-ck.

### Understanding the World

- Talk about adult and baby farm animals and their names.
- Talk about different crops that might be grown on a farm such as vegetables. Plant some simple vegetables with the children, such as beans, potatoes or carrots. Encourage the children to care for the plants as they grow.

### Expressive Arts & Design

- Children will learn some new farm-themed songs and rhymes
- In the painting area, put some farm images on display to encourage the children to paint themed paintings.
- Explore colour mixing with the children. Provide some red and white paint and allow children to explore creating shades of pink to paint pig pictures.

### Stories

- On the Farm
- Farm Animals
- Egg to Chicken
- The Little Red Hen
- The Enormous Turnip
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### Songs

- Farmer's in his den
- Old MacDonald
- 10 Little Eggs
- 5 eggs and 5 eggs that makes 10
- Underground Vegetables