



Welcome to Acorn

Morning Routine

The children are being helped with the routines of the morning.

They will be learning to develop their independence skills.

When they come into pre-school they are learning to take off and hang up their coats, place their water bottles in a basket, and stick up their photo to self-register.



A typical day in Acorn Pre-School

- ▶ After the morning routine, they go off to play by choosing an activity either inside or outside.
- ▶ We then do a group time activity, either as the whole group or in smaller Key Worker groups. This might be reading a story, doing some counting, learning about a topic, showing the children how to do a drawing/painting or a speaking and listening activity.
- ▶ We then have another longer play session, where the children can move between choosing inside or outside activities. During this longer play session the children may be asked to either do a focused activity with an adult or a group activity with their Key Worker. This will usually follow on from the input they had in the earlier group time activity.
- ▶ During this time the children are asked to come and have a snack which is milk or water and a piece of fruit.
- ▶ We then have tidy up time followed by rhyme time and phonics for the children who go home at 12 and lunch for the children who stay until 3.
- ▶ After lunch we have quiet time followed by outside play.
- ▶ We then have rhyme time and phonics followed by more free flow play.
- ▶ We then tidy up and have story time before going home.

What is my child doing at pre-school?

- ▶ Every half term we choose a theme that applies across the different areas of the Early Years Curriculum and a Power of Reading text in Literacy.
- ▶ This half term our theme is 'Settling In' and our Power of Reading text is, "Honey for you, Honey for me" by Michael Rosen.
- ▶ Activities (this includes indoor and outdoor environment activities, Key Worker group, whole group and focused activities) are planned to meet the areas of development as set out in the Development Matters document.
- ▶ Every week in the inside and outside environment there are Literacy, Mathematics, Creative, Understanding the World and Physical activities.
- ▶ Other activities such as role play encourage Personal and Social and Communication and Language skills.

Forest School

- ▶ Forest school is every Wednesday morning.
- ▶ The children need to come to pre-school on Wednesdays dressed and ready to go outside for Forest School after the register.
- ▶ Lots of layers are a good idea for Forest School, then with waterproofs on top. Wellies or sturdy boots are best, maybe with an extra pair of socks to keep feet warm.
- ▶ When the weather gets colder please send in gloves and hats and scarves for your child.

From Development Matters Characteristics of Effective Learning:

Playing and exploring
Active learning
Creating and thinking critically

- ▶ In the Foundation Stage the children complete lots of different activities.
- ▶ They work with adults to do focused tasks.
- ▶ The majority of their learning comes through play, this learning is observed and enhanced by the adults in the pre-school.

English/Literacy

- ▶ Literacy will continue to be taught using the Power of Reading approach.
- ▶ Each half term one high-quality text is chosen to form the basis of the children's learning. A range of techniques such as drama, art, talking about illustrations, partner work, discussion and storytelling are used to explore the text slowly and in depth. These techniques ensure all children have opportunities to develop their vocabulary, increase their confidence in speaking aloud and give enthusiasm for early reading and writing.

Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics

Our setting has chosen to use the **Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics** programme to give every child the best possible start to their reading journey.

We build the foundations for children to succeed with phonics in Reception.

We do this using Little Wandle's **Tuning into sounds** and **Rhyme time** activities.



Phonics is:

**making connections between the sounds
(phonemes) of our spoken words and the
letters that are used to write them down.**

What helps children get ready for phonics?

Research tells us that there are important skills that children need to practise to help them learn phonics.

Nursery is where we practise these skills. Formal phonics teaching begins in Reception.

Let's look at what we focus on in Nursery and what you can do at home, too.

During their time in Nursery they will do

- Rhyme time
- Phonics
 - Learning the sounds
 - Tuning into sounds
 - Oral blending





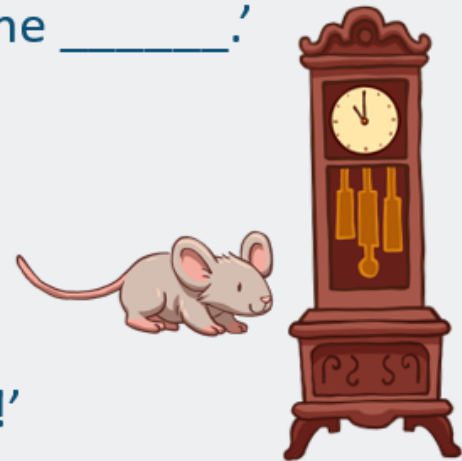
Songs and rhymes

In our setting, we:

- sing rhymes regularly
- leave gaps at the end of the line for children to complete the rhyme, for example, 'Hickory dickory dock, the mouse ran up the _____!'

At home, you can:

- read lots of rhymes and sing songs
- pause for your child to complete the rhyme
- make up silly rhymes, for example, 'Get your coat, you little goat! So we can leave the house, little mouse!'



Story Sacks

► "It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together" From the *Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage* (DFE 2026)

► Each week your child will get a Story Sack that they keep for the week and then return to pre-school.

► Story sacks were invented by a man called Neil Griffiths.

► Story sacks encourage children to extend their language and so help them to become effective communicators. They stimulate their imagination, prompt questions and require adult and child participation.

► You can watch Neil Griffiths on You Tube using story sacks - he shows you how to use the props and how to build up enthusiasm for what's in the sack this week.

► 'Jenny the Story Sack Lady' - on You Tube - watch for ideas of how to use the props.

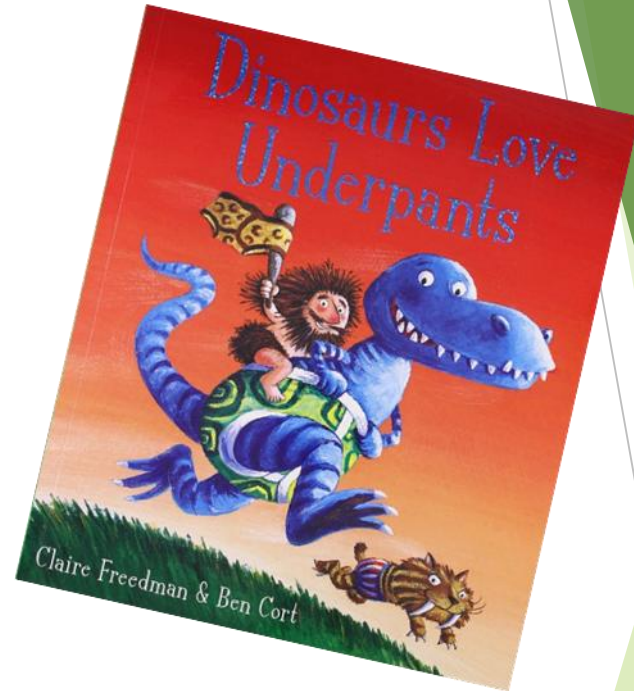
► Story sacks are checked and changed every week. Please remember to return them every week to pre-school.

► We hope to get story sacks up and running before half term.

Acorn Mini Library

We hope you enjoy choosing a book to share at home.

Please remember to return your book before you choose a new one so that we can all keep sharing books.



Mark making is important!



Maths in Early Years

"Mathematics for young children involves developing their own understanding of number, quantity, shape and space."

"Effective early mathematics experiences involve seeking patterns, creating and solving mathematical problems and engaging with stories, songs, games, practical activities and imaginative play." *Birth to 5 Matters*

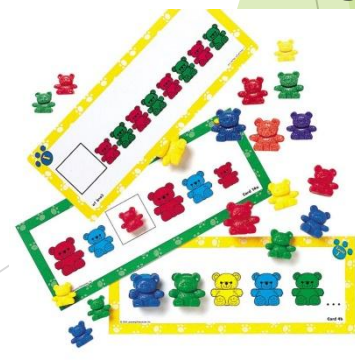
The "Fiveness of 5"



Numicon



Pattern making



Maths in Early Years

"Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding - such as using manipulatives, including small pebbles and tens frames for organising counting - children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, 'have a go', talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes". From the *Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage* (DFE 2026)

Balanceability

- ▶ In the Spring term there will be an opportunity for all the pre-school children to take part in a Level 1 six week balance ability course.
- ▶ Level 1 is aimed at children aged 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 years old.
- ▶ It focuses on movement patterns, gross motor skills and dynamic balance using a balance bike.
- ▶ Children learn how to pick up, manoeuvre, mount and dismount their bikes and then learn the skills to ride a balance bike safely.
- ▶ Children are then able to transition to riding a pedal bike in a safe, rewarding manner and are set on the way to enhancing their physical literacy.



Class Dojo

- We will be using Class Dojo to communicate between school and home.
- Children can create their own characters.
- You will get notified of when your child receives a dojo.
- Skills selected that follow alongside the schools values and rules.

Ways to help your child at home

- ▶ Read lots of books and talk about stories and make up stories.
- ▶ Use mathematics in everyday situations.
- ▶ Encourage lots of activities that help develop fine motor strength for example play dough, building with Lego, squeezing water on paint from sponges, finger painting etc.
- ▶ Encourage lots of mark making.
- ▶ Encourage independence with everyday tasks such as coats and shoes.

Further Information

- ▶ Guidance to your child's learning and development in the early years foundation stage. 'What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage, a guide for Parents.'
- ▶ What to expect in the EYFS' - DfE

[What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf](#)

Please remember when reading this document that every child is different and children do not grow and develop at the same rate.

Reminders

- ▶ Lunches - please order even if it's to say your child is having a packed lunch so we know we have everyone covered.
- ▶ Use Class Dojo to communicate with us.
- ▶ We are always happy to call after pre-school if you have any questions.
- ▶ Please send in a named water bottle (filled with water) everyday.
- ▶ Please label all of your child's belongings.😊
- ▶ Any tissue box donations would be gratefully received.

Any Questions?