



Activities at Home

Dear Parents,

The activity for week 4 beginning 28.09.20 is: **Helping Animals makes me Marvellous**

The activity that we will be covering involves talking about the seasonal changes that are taking place around us and the impact that these changes might be having on our local wildlife.

Our activity includes:

- We will have a discussion about our current season, Autumn, focusing on the resulting changes from Summer-e.g. drop in temperature, more rain, shorter days, things not growing on the trees and plants and leaves turning brown. The children will be encouraged to consider what these changes might mean for the different animals that we might see around us during each day, such as robins and squirrels, with an adult guiding them towards understanding that animals need to take different measures to ensure that they are able to survive the colder weather, like stocking up on lots of yummy food. This lesson is a ‘Marvellous Me’ lesson because it aims to teach children that one of the things that makes us marvellous is how we help other living things, and our discussion will ultimately end in the children considering what we can do to help animals.
- The children will then engage in a bird feeder making activity, threading segments of apple onto gardener’s wire. The apple will be cut into large sections and children will be challenged to use safety knives to cut them into smaller segments ready for threading, giving them an opportunity to develop physical skills and risk assessment and personal safety skills. Once children have completed the activity, we will find appropriate sections in our areas of the garden to distribute the feeders, and children will subsequently be encouraged to monitor the feeders over the coming days and weeks, seeing if our local birds have appreciated their tasty treats!

- **HEALTH AND SAFETY**-Children will only have access to safety knives which they cannot hurt themselves with and teachers will model how to correctly use the knives before carefully monitoring the children.
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You might wish to help your child to explore this topic at home or when you are out and about. Please feel free to approach the teachers for further explanations. Our suggested activities are:

- Go on a Nature Walk with your child and talk about the different animals that you see there-maybe you could even take a simple checklist (many varieties can be easily accessed online) and encourage the children to tick off the animals themselves, developing fine motor and mark making skills too. This can be extended further by taking walks in daylight and after sunset, so that children can develop an understanding that different animals come out at daytime and night time. Lots of the National Trust properties around the area organise evening walks such as this-some parks have even done Bat Walks in the past!
- You can make your own bug hotel or bird feeder for your own gardens or balconies! You can either do similar activities to those described in this plan, or alternatively for bird feeders you could consider scooping the flesh out of an orange half and putting coconut oil and bird seed into the skin. Scooping the orange is surprisingly tricky (and unsurprisingly sticky!) so is a fantastic way to develop fine motor skills. You could develop these skills further by helping your child to use a hand juicer to get the juice out of the orange before you scoop for a healthy, yummy treat.
- Talk to your child about Autumn, encouraging them to engage with the changes that are happening around them. Ask them how many of these changes they have noticed-there are the obvious weather changes and leaves changing colour and falling, but have they noticed the gradual shortening of the days? Have they noticed a difference in plants growing, like conkers? These are great observational points that you can have really interesting discussions about!

