



# The Winchester School



## Family Learning Newsletter (Foundation Stage 2) – March 2025

Area of learning	Focus	Home activities/How can you help your child at home	Useful website
<p><b>Communication and Language</b></p>	<p><b>Listening and attention</b> Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.</p> <p><b>Understanding</b> Understand questions such as who; why; when; where and how.</p> <p><b>Speaking</b> Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences including use of past, present and future tense.</p>	<p>Take out your child for observation walks, whether indoors or outdoors. <b>Encourage</b> your child to share what they notice, prompting further discussion with questions such as, why do you think the leaves are moving? or What is this bug doing? <b>Talk</b> about the similarities, differences, and patterns they notice. <b>Share</b> new vocabulary related to their observations and talk about how things look, feel, or change to expand their language and understanding.</p> <p><b>Share</b> everyday moments with your child by asking who, why, when, where, and how questions about plants and life cycles during activities like outdoor walks or gardening. <b>Talk</b> about plant growth by asking, “Who waters the plants?” or “Why do plants need sunlight?” to build understanding. <b>Share</b> your curiosity by thinking aloud, like “When do flowers bloom?” or “How does a seed grow into a plant?” to encourage deeper thinking. <b>Talk</b> with your child patiently, giving them time to respond in full sentences and gain confidence in expressing their thoughts.</p> <p>Set up a “pretend play” scenario like a shop, a doctor’s clinic, or a restaurant, and encourage your child to talk about what they are doing, what they did earlier, and what they plan to do next. You might ask, “What did you sell to the customer?” or “What will you cook next?” <b>Talk</b> about your child’s day using a simple daily schedule, like a clock or visual timetable. <b>Encourage</b> them to express what has already happened, what is happening now, and what will happen next. For example, ask, “What did we do after breakfast?” (past), “What are we doing now?” (present), and “What will we do after lunch?” (future).</p>	<p><a href="#">Questions to clarify understanding.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Past, present and future tense</a></p>

<p><b>Prime Area Personal, Social and Emotional Development</b></p>	<p><b>Making Relationships:</b> Work and play cooperatively and take turns with others.</p> <p><b>Sense of Self:</b> Explain the reasons for rules, know right from wrong and try to behave accordingly.</p> <p><b>Understanding emotions:</b> Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others, and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly.</p>	<p><b>Encourage</b> your child to share and talk during group games like “Duck, Duck, Goose” or “Musical Chairs.” These games help them take turns, follow rules, and work cooperatively with others in a fun and interactive way. <b>Encourage</b> your child to talk about their plans while building projects, such as creating towers or bridges with blocks or LEGO, allowing them to share ideas, communicate, and collaborate with others.</p> <p><b>Share</b> with your child the reasons behind rules and talk about the consequences of their actions, both good and bad. <b>Encourage</b> your child to talk about their behaviour, asking questions like, “How did your friend feel when you didn’t share?” or “What can you do differently next time?” <b>Share</b> your own positive behaviour as an example, and praise them when they make good choices. This helps them understand right from wrong.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to think about issues from the viewpoint of others. Make time to listen to your child respectfully and explain to him/her why this is important. <b>Encourage</b> your child to do a self-analysis and make a list of things, which make them uneasy. For e.g. When someone has taken their toy without asking or if someone tears their storybook about how they are going to solve these problems.</p>	<p><a href="#">Games</a></p>
<p><b>Leadership Gemstone</b></p> <p><b>Leading with Integrity-</b> <i>Remind you to be honest and strong in your values.</i></p>	<p>Always do the right thing, even when it is hard.</p> <p>Participate in acts of service, such as community support initiatives.</p>	<p><b>Share</b> and talk about the values to your children like It is okay to make mistakes, but we should always own up to them and try to fix them. <b>Share</b> a time when you made a mistake and learned from it. <b>Encourage</b> your child to do the same. <b>Encourage</b> your child to do one kind thing a day, like helping a friend or cleaning up, without being asked.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to set the table for Iftar. <b>Talk</b> to child about their actions and deeds. <b>Encourage</b> your child to</p>	

<p><b>Leading with purpose-</b> <i>A value closely tied to reflection and accountability)</i></p>		<p>thank the community helpers with small gestures, like a greeting, smile, thank you note etc. Keep water and food for the birds in the balcony. Feed your pet and water the plants.</p>	
<p><b>Physical Development</b></p>	<p><b>Moving and handling</b> <b>Gross Motor Skills:</b> Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing;</p> <p><b>Health and self-care:</b> Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices.</p>	<p><b>Share</b> outdoor play with your child by engaging in activities like throwing, catching, or kicking a ball. <b>Talk</b> about using space safely and set boundaries for activities like football or wheeled toys. <b>Encourage</b> them to regulate their movements to develop balance, coordination, and strength.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> them to follow a healthy daily routine, including going to bed on time and eating nutritious foods. Get your child involved in simple meal preparation activities, such as washing fruits or spreading peanut butter on bread, to help them learn the importance of healthy eating.</p>	<p><a href="#">Balance and coordination</a></p>
<p><b>Specific Area Literacy</b></p>	<p><b>Reading</b> Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound blending.</p> <p>Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.</p> <p><b>Stories</b> The Teeny-Weeny Tadpole by Sheridan Cain</p>	<p><b>Share</b> words related to plants and life cycles, like s-e-e-d, b-u-d, or f-r-o-g. <b>Talk</b> about each stage by sounding out the words and blending them together to help your child read and understand.</p> <p><b>Share</b> stories about plants and life cycles, like The Very Hungry Caterpillar, or create a simple book together. <b>Talk</b> about the sentences, helping your child sound out words and recognise common exception words like the, and was. Make it personal by adding pictures and words they can read. <b>Encourage</b> them to read aloud and enjoy the story together!</p> <p><b>Talk</b> about the life cycle of different animals e.g. frogs, butterflies and chickens etc. <b>Encourage</b> your child to recall</p>	<p><a href="#">Reading</a></p>

	<p>The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle</p> <p>Backyard Bugs by Jill McDonald</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.</p> <p><b>Jolly Phonics –</b> Introduce letter sound of Jolly phonics Jolly phonics qu, ou,oi, ue, er ar recap of letters ch,sh, th, th, qu,ou,oi</p> <p>Learning to spell tricky words- will, that, then, now, she, this, with, for, he, them, down, me, my, see, too, was, all, look, we, you, her, be, they, are.</p>	<p>the sequence of the cycle on their emphasising the vocabulary words as first, then, next and lastly. Go on a backyard exploration or visit a local park to observe insects. Discuss their life cycles and compare them to the stories. Use props or toys to act out the life cycle stories.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to create a mini-book about a life cycle, labelling each stage with simple words. Use activities like sentence strips to help them form complete sentences. Offer fun writing opportunities, such as making get-well cards, to reinforce their skills. Praise their efforts and remind them that writing is about trying, not perfection!</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to find objects around the house with the letter sounds ‘qu,ou,oi, ue, er, ar’. Cut pictures from pamphlets, and old books for letter sounds e.g. quack, pouch, oil, teacher, dark and bought etc. and design a colourful, illustrative ‘My Letter Sounds Booklet’. <b>Encourage</b> your child to explore tricky words through games and songs. Ensure that they follow the Look, Cover, Write and Check method to develop mastery over the tricky words.</p>	<p><a href="#">Writing in EYFS</a></p> <p><a href="#">Tricky words</a></p>
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p>	<p><b>Numerical Patterns</b> Automatically recall number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts.</p>	<p>To help your child practice number bonds, you can create simple number bond stories, like I have 4 cookies, and I eat 2. How many are left? This reinforces subtraction facts. Make up catchy number bond songs to remember pairs, such as <math>3 + 2 = 5</math>. You can also use counters like buttons or coins to demonstrate number bonds, helping them visualise sums like <math>1 + 4 = 5</math>.</p> <p>Write out number bonds on paper and ask your child to fill in missing numbers, or play matching games with number bond cards, like <math>5 - 3 = 2</math>. For a fun twist, create a number bond bingo card with different pairs for your child to match. These activities provide fun, hands-on ways to reinforce number bond learning.</p>	<p><a href="#">Number bonds</a></p> <p><a href="#">Odd and even</a></p>

	<p>Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.</p> <p>Compare quantities up to 10 recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity.</p>	<p><b>Encourage</b> your child to make up their own story problems and solve them. Ex- Yesterday, I found 3 shiny marbles on the playground. My friend, Sarah, gave me double the number of marbles I found. How many marbles did Sarah give me?</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to use five fingers on each hand to count and make them understand a total of ten fingers altogether, or that two rows of three eggs in the box make six eggs altogether. Use toys to demonstrate equal sharing. For example, distribute a set of toy cars equally between two or more stuffed animals. Create a large number line on paper or with masking tape on the floor. Use objects or toys to count and identify even and odd numbers.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to compare quantities using toys, such as counting and comparing the number of cars, blocks, or fruit. You can ask questions like, “Which group has more?” or “Which group has fewer?” Use objects to visually show when quantities are the same, greater, or less than each other. A simple activity could be sorting different amounts of objects into groups and discussing the differences.</p>	
<p><b>Understanding the World</b></p>	<p><b>People and communities - Past and present</b> Understand the past through settings, characters and events encounter encountered in books read in class and storytelling.</p>	<p><b>Encourage</b> your child to explore the life cycles of plants, insects, and animals, comparing how they change over time. For example, you can discuss how plants grow from seeds each year, connecting the past (previous seasons) to the present (current growth). <b>Talk</b> about how a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly and compare it to how people and communities change over time. Through storytelling, you can discuss the past by using characters or events that show transformation. By observing and discussing these life cycles, children begin to understand the concept of time, transformation, and how things evolve, helping them connect the past and present in the natural world around them.</p>	

	<p><b>The Natural world</b> Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.</p> <p><b>The World</b> Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.</p> <p><b>Technology</b> Uses ICT hardware to interact with age-appropriate computer software.</p>	<p>Go on a nature walk during different seasons with your child. <b>Encourage</b> your child to observe changes in the environment, such as fallen leaves in autumn or blooming flowers in spring and collect items or images representing each season. Sort them into categories based on the season they belong to.</p> <p>Freeze water in different containers and explore the ice. <b>Talk</b> to your child how it changes from a liquid to a solid. Make playdough together and explore how it changes from a soft dough to a solid form.</p> <p>Ask them to look up the internet and find out the names of the different minibeasts. <b>Encourage</b> your child to play drag-and-drop puzzles related to nature and life cycles, or create their own virtual habitats for animals. Provide opportunities to use their skills and explore concepts and ideas through their representations.</p>	<p><a href="#">States of matter</a></p>
<p><b>Expressive Art and Design</b></p>	<p><b>Creating with materials:</b> Uses their increasing knowledge and understanding of tools and materials to explore their interests and enquiries and develop their thinking.</p> <p><b>Being imaginative and expressive:</b> Plays instruments (including imaginary ones such as air guitar) to match the structure of the music, eg playing</p>	<p><b>Encourage</b> them to create interesting artwork using paint, colours, junk, etc. Let them talk about what they have created.</p> <p>Collect cardboard boxes, tubes, and other recyclable materials. Let your child create their own masterpiece, such as a ladybug and butterfly etc.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to do creative activities that involve movements, sounds, colours, and materials that can be both fun and educational. E.g. You can plan a dance party with lively music and let your child dance freely.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> them to express themselves through movement. you can also create simple instruments using household items like empty containers, rice-filled shakers,</p>	<p><a href="#">Painting activities</a></p>

	quietly with quiet parts within music, stopping with the music when it stops.	or cardboard tube drums. Let your child experiment with the sounds they can produce.	
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<b><u>Coming Up Events</u></b>		
International Women's Day	Friday 7th March	
International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Tuesday 11th March	
International Day of Maths	Friday 14th March	
Emirati Children's Day	Friday 14th March	
International Day of Happiness	Thursday 20th March-	
International Day for Forest/ World Poetry day/ World Water Day	Friday 21st March-	