

Homework Ideas: Rowans and Willows

Extending your child's skills at home is an important part of your child's learning. Below are a list of ideas to continue your child's learning at home.

Our topics this year are **Our House** (Autumn Term), **Animal Boogie** (Spring Term) and **Pack Your Bags** (Summer Term). Here are some ideas that are linked to our topic themes:



Our House:

- Recognising their house and knowing that this is their home.
- Take photographs around the house and encourage the children to label/name different parts of the house e.g. roof, door, window, bricks.
- Label rooms in the house e.g. living room, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom and garden.
- Walking around the local area and recognising buildings.
- Label houses around your local area e.g. house, flat, bungalow, semi-detached and terraced.
- Knowing and writing their home address.
- Matching pictures of houses and homes.
- Reading stories such as 'The Three Little Pigs' or 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.'



Animal Boogie:

- Talk about the pets in the home. Can your child label their pets? What animal are their pets? What do their pets like to do? What do their pets like to eat? Where do their pets live?
- Visit a local park, farm or zoo and encourage your child to recognise and name different animals. Talk to your child about what animals like to eat and where they live.
- Animal hunt in the garden or local area. What animals can you find?
- Make bird houses/feeders and think about where birds like to live and what birds like to eat.
- Match pictures of different animals and label pictures.
- Sing animal themed songs such as 'five little ducks,' 'five little speckled frogs' or 'down in the jungle.'
- Read non-fiction and story books about animals.



Pack your Bags:

- Look at family holiday photographs with your child. Can your child remember where they went on holiday? What did your child like when they went on holiday?
- Label clothes e.g. t-shirt, shorts, trousers, socks, pants, hat/cap, and coat. Think about the clothes you would need on holiday. Are you going to a hot or cold place? What clothes do we wear in hot place and cold places?
- Pack a suitcase. What do we need to put inside? What things do we need on holiday?
- Visit a local travel agent.
- Visit a local airport and take photographs. What can you see at the airport?

- Visit the seaside and encourage the children to talk about what they see and what they like doing.
- Read and share stories about holidays.

Other skills that can be developed at home are:



Numeracy:

- Singing counting rhymes and songs.
- Matching and ordering numbers.
- Counting objects.
- Using sweets to add and take away. If I have two sweets and add one more, how many sweets do I have? If I have four sweets and eat one sweet, how many sweets do I have?
- Recognising flat (2D) and solid (3D) shapes in the home or in the environment.
- Sorting shapes into a shape sorter.
- Matching and labelling shapes.
- Cooking activities: weighing and measuring ingredients. Is it heavy, light, full or empty?
- Making comparisons such as which is the longest, shortest, biggest or smallest.
- Using objects such as paper clips to measure the length of items.
- Water or sand play activities and investigating full and empty.
- Sorting information by colour, size or shape.
- Reading number, counting and shape books.



Literacy:

- Recognising signs, labels or pictures in the home and local environment.
- Recognising their name, matching letters to make their name, writing their name.
- Singing alphabet songs.
- Reading stories.
- Using words, signing or symbols to communicate.
- Mark making using paints, chalks or pencils.
- Practicing writing different letter shapes.
- Following instructions or requests e.g. 'Put phone on table.'
- Making preferences e.g. 'I like' or 'I don't like'.



Science:

- Naming different materials, making preferences such as 'I like' or 'I don't like' how it feels and describing what the materials feel and look like e.g. rough, soft, smooth, shiny or dull.
- Cooking activities and exploring changes that happen e.g. melting and changing shape.
- Water play activities, exploring floating and sinking.
- Labelling body parts e.g. head, arms, legs, feet, hands. Singing body part songs such as 'heads, shoulders, knees and toes.'

- Planting seeds and watching them grow. Labelling the parts of a plant e.g. roots, stem, leaves, petal, flower.
- Looking after plants and thinking about what a plant needs to grow e.g. water and light.
- Mini beast hunt in the garden. What insets can you find? Where do they live?
- Visit a park, farm or zoo and label different animals.
- Look at day time and night time and talk about the things we see. Can you find the moon at night time? Can you find the sun in the day time?
- Asking your child what the weather is today. Is it sunny, cloudy, and raining?
- Explore the seasons, looking at how the environment changes with each season.



Fine Motor/Gross Motor Skills:

- Playdough activities, manipulating the dough and making different shapes.
- Threading activities e.g. threading beads along and piece of string or lace.
- Pincer grip activities, using thumb and index finger to grip small object like beads or opening a closing a clothes peg.
- Cutting activities, using scissors to cut paper or along a line or shape.
- Throwing and catching a ball or soft object.
- Moving the body in different ways e.g. running, walking, jumping, tiptoes.
- Music and movement songs such as 'head, shoulders, knees and toes.
- Riding a scooter or bike.
- Going to a local park or play area.

Developing your child's independence and life skills is an important part of your child's development. Below are some ideas for how you can develop these at home:



Life and Living Skills:

- Dressing and undressing;
- Brushing their teeth;
- Combing hair;
- Washing body parts during bath time;
- Drying their body parts after bath time;
- Putting their coat on and taking their coat off;
- Putting their shoes on and tying their shoe laces;
- Washing up after dinner time;
- Being involved in cooking activities;
- Requesting to go to the toilet;
- Going to the toilet with greater independence;
- Making their bed;
- Putting their school clothes out ready for school time;
- Taking their home school book out of their bag;
- Talk about what they have done at school. Can they remember the activities that they have done?
- Going to the shops and experiencing paying for items, giving and receiving money.
- Going to a restaurant or café and ordering food from a menu.

- Playing with friends and siblings at home.
- Playing at a local park and developing your child's social interaction skills.