



Nursery Autumn 1 2023

The Theme of Investigation (TOI) is: **'Who Are We?'**

Our CENTRAL INVESTIGATIONS are: **Who are we? / We are all unique- and that is a wonderful thing!**

Following childrens' interests

In Little Griffins we use the school-wide Theme of Investigation as a starting point. We then observe the children closely, taking note of their interests and developmental level and plan accordingly, working with the children to move their own learning and development forward. We follow the children's lead as they take control of their learning, show us what they are interested in and what it is they would like to learn about. This approach leads to a deep level of learning, and it's always exciting to see the twists and turns of the children's learning journey.

What might we explore within our TOI?

Core books: 'All Are Welcome Here' by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman, 'What Makes Me a Me?' by Ben Faulks, 'Only One You' by Linda Kranz, 'You Be You' by Linda Kranz

'Who are we?'

- Looking at similarities and differences between ourselves and friends/family members
- We are all similar and yet unique
- What makes me, me?

We can be anything we want to be

- We are Artists
- We are Investigators
- We are Builders
- We are Storytellers
- We can do anything we put our minds to

What does it mean to be:

- A Friendly Frog
- A Busy Bee
- A Focused Fox
- A Creative Caterpillar

What might we be learning?

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework consists of seven areas of learning. Within these seven areas there are three Prime Areas of learning, which are: Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development. These three areas are a vital part of development in early childhood, and lay the important foundations for future learning. Below are some ideas of what we will be focusing on this half term.

<p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning to play with others, sharing and taking turns • Learning to explore continuous provision independently • Making choices • Gradually learning that actions have consequences • Responding to the feelings and wishes of others 	<p>Communication and Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening and responding to others • Listening to stories with increasing attention and recall • Focusing attention • Following the routine • Using language to share thoughts and feelings • Beginning to hold a conversation • Developing ability to hold their attention and focus on their chosen task 	<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in finger and action rhymes • Moving in a variety of different ways • Showing increasing control over a range of tools • Feeding self competently, using a knife and fork • Developing independence in self-care skills • Increasing independence with toileting, building ability to stay clean and dry throughout the day • Washing and drying hands effectively
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Home learning ideas

Communication and Language: Play games to encourage attention span and listening skills, such as doing puzzles together, playing ‘I spy’, pair games etc.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Encourage your children to talk about their feelings and why they are feeling that way. Validate their feelings and help them find ways to cope. i.e. “I can see you are feeling sad at the moment; can you tell me why?” Help to find a solution by giving a couple of options i.e. “what can I do to help, would you like a cuddle or a quiet story?” Share books about emotions to support your children in developing the ability to articulate their feelings.

Physical Development: Encourage your children to become more independent with dressing and undressing. Learning to take off and put on a jumper is a tricky task but with perseverance they can do it! Encourage them to put on/take off their own shoes. Ensure your child has a good night-time routine, sleeping for 10-13 hours a day is the recommended amount for children this age.

Maths: Sing number rhymes together, using your fingers to count on as you do (Ten Green Bottles, Ten Fat Sausages, 1 2 3 4 5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive, Five Speckled Frogs etc.). If you are not sure of the songs, YouTube has many number songs you can watch and sing together, but ensure this is interactive and join in with them rather than them passively watching the songs.

Literacy: Share storybooks together, developing a love of listening to and joining in with familiar stories. Talk about the book, what characters/events did they like?

Understanding the World: Talk to your child about what makes them special. We are all different; each person has their own particular likes and dislikes, things they are good at and things they are still learning. Look at books about children from around the world and talk about similarities and differences.

Expressive Arts and Design: Encourage your children to be creative and provide them with a range of medium to do so. Allow them to explore mark making at their current developmental age - if they are currently exploring making lines and circles, provide them with different media to do so - big paper to encourage large gross motor movements, and smaller paper to work on fine motor skills, if they are now at the stage where they can think about what they would like to create before beginning, encourage them to think about it and talk to them about what they are creating. Keep mark making very open ended and allow them to make their own choices.

Celebrations and festivals

We are a diverse school with children from many different cultures and religions and this is something we ensure we celebrate. If ever you have a celebration special to your family that you would like to support us with, please speak to Mrs Turner who would welcome your input.