



Little Griffins- Spring 2 2024

The Theme of Investigation (TOI) is: **'Systems and Structures'**

Following Children's 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, linking to our current interests?

Reception September 2024

Core books- Oliver Jeffers- *What We'll Build*, Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom- *Let's Build a House*

- Let's Build a House: Looking at different structures; are all buildings made the same? What do buildings look like in different countries? Which material would be the strongest?
- What We'll Build: Using our imagination – if you could build anything, what would you make? Creating these using pictures, construction, painting, junk modelling
- Exploring different kinds of construction

Reception September 2025

Core books - *The Three Little Pigs*, Malanie Williamson – *Wolf's Master Plan*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*

Exploring construction through:

- The Three Little Pigs: Which house is strongest? How can we build a strong house? Can you build a house strong enough that I can't blow it down?
- Wolf's Master Plan: How would you catch the sheep? What would you make?
- Billy Goat's Gruff: What would you make to escape the Troll?

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: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language 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, understanding others' boundaries and respecting personal space. • Gradually learning that actions have consequences. • Responding to the feelings and wishes of others. • Learning to voice our own wants and needs. • Learning to talk about how we are feeling. • Making healthy choices. • Showing resilience and perseverance. 	<p>Communication and Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding a question or instruction that has two parts, such as: "Get your coat and wait at the door". • Knowing many rhymes, being able to talk about familiar books, and being able to tell a long story. • Beginning to respond to 'why' questions. • Building confidence to speak in front of a group. • Slowly developing how long they hold their attention on tasks. • Using a wide range of vocabulary. • Showing understanding of prepositions. • Beginning to use a range of tenses. 	<p>Physical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing increasing control over a range of tools. • Feeding self-competently, using a knife and fork. • Walking considerable distances with purpose. • Developing independence in self-care skills. • Washing and drying hands effectively. • Continuing to develop fine motor skills.
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Home learning ideas

Communication and Language: Encourage your child's growing vocabulary by introducing them to new words. Do not shy away from using big/unknown words. If a word comes up in a story that your child may not know, rather than changing it, tell your child the meaning of the word. Tell them names of things they do not know and choose books that introduce interesting new vocabulary to them.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Give your children appropriate tasks to carry out to encourage their growing independence. Can they help you cut some vegetables/fruit with a child-safe knife for dinner/pudding? Can they put the knives and forks on the table for you? Can they water plants in the garden with you/plant with you?

Physical Development: Provide opportunities for your child to continue to develop their movement; balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills. Encourage your child to walk when you are out rather than being carried/in a pushchair.

Maths: Encourage development of 1:1 correspondence - being able to count up to ten verbally is great, but your child needs to understand what counting is. Provide lots of games where your child can count objects (even if these are movable to support them at first), ensuring they are using one number name for each object, touching/moving the object and counting slowly to reach the correct number. Help to ensure each object is only counted once.

Literacy: Encourage lots of mark-making on different scales - provide small A5 paper, A4 paper, A3 paper and even try covering a table/wall with a large roll of paper for your child to mark make on, promoting gross and fine motor skills. As the weather gets warmer, you can use paint brushes and water to paint outside.

Understanding the World: As you go on walks, have a look at the different buildings you spot; can your child spot any similarities/differences between the buildings?

Expressive Arts and Design: Encourage your children to make more complex 'small worlds' using blocks and other construction toys, such as a city with different buildings and a park.

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.