



Grafton Childcare

We're Going on a Bear Hunt - 2nd - 26th January 2018

2nd - 5th January 2018

Christmas seems a fast fading memory as we all welcome in the New Year and think of our plans and topics for the year ahead. But before we do can we say a huge thank you to all of our parents who have supported Grafton Childcare in 2017 and the previous 26 years we have been in operation. We can't believe that in December we celebrated 10 years of Grafton Childcare being at our present site after we moved way back in 2007 from our birth place Grafton Road tucked next to the giant ASDA supermarket.

Sadly at the end of the year we had to take the decision to suspend the places of a handful of children for the non payment of their childcare fees. This was despite giving the parents ample opportunities to settle their debts some of which were over six months overdue. We found ourselves left with no choice but to proceed with CCJ's for the none payment of fees.



Communication and Language Development

Listening and Attention;

Understanding and Speaking:

Our topic for January will be loosely based around the two classic stories, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'Can't You Sleep Little Bear'. There is no getting over it, no getting under it: We're Going on a Bear Hunt, the infectious, chant-along verse by Michael Rosen, with illustrations by Helen Oxenbury, is 29 years old this year. Never out of print since publication, nor off the top 5,000 selling books in history, it has sold more than eight million copies worldwide and been translated into 18 languages. The chant itself has its origins in American folk song, the elusive bear replacing the lion of its earlier renditions. The Scouts and Guides amongst you may remember going on a lion hunt, with Brown Owl banging out the rhythm on her knees,' Rosen says. 'I first heard it in the 1970s and started using it as part of my live poetry performances. I always put it in towards the end, like a finale, and encouraged the audience to participate. David Lloyd, the editorial director at Walker Books, happened to watch one of these performances, and the rest as they say is history.



2nd - 5th January 2018

Speaking: We have lots of sensory activities planned this week using our 'compare bears' 'threading beads' and 'treasure trays' when we will be supporting the children to express themselves effectively, showing awareness of others needs. We will be supporting them to use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future. We will be enjoying the *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and *Can't You Sleep Little Bear* stories and encouraging the children to develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas and events from these brilliant stories as well as a range of many other classics with Bears as the main characters.

Phonics Pots -

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

2nd January - 'G' for Grass

inspired by the long wavy grass from *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

8th January - 'R' for River

inspired by a deep cold river from *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

15th January - 'M' for Mud

inspired by the thick oozy mud from *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

22nd January - 'F' for Forest

inspired by the big dark forest from *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

Please remember that all items must fit inside your child's Phonics Pot with the lid on, so we do not lose any of your items at nursery.



Communication and Language Development

Listening and Attention; Understanding and Speaking:



Listening and Attention:

Here at Grafton Childcare we shall be encouraging and demonstrating how the children can listen attentively in a range of situations. We will be sharing two of our focus books, *'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'* and *'Can't You Sleep Little Bear'* and supporting the children to sit and listen carefully to these stories. As they become familiar with the storylines they will become more able to accurately anticipate key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. Our regular 'circle time' sessions are great daily opportunities for the children to learn when they need to be attentive to what others say and respond appropriately, whilst engaged in activities linked to our stories, for example using our range of props and cuddly toys included in our story sacks linked with these books. Including our set of LED Lanterns to bring *Can't You Sleep Little Bear* to life in the Kid's Shed which for January we shall be converting into our very own cosy giant deep dark 'Bear Cave'.

Understanding:

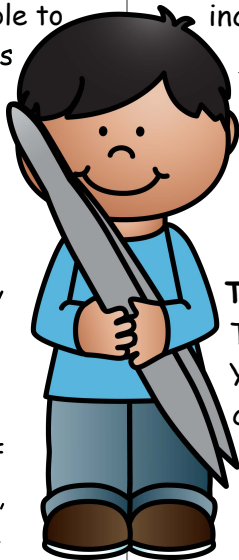
The children will be getting stuck into enjoying roleplaying in the 'Bear Cave' set up in the Kid's Shed and we will be supporting them to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. For example understanding how to turn on and off our range of LED Lanterns and Candles by mastering the remote controls or simply using magic! Why not ask your children what's so magical about our Lanterns?

We shall be encouraging the children to answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences whilst enjoying lots of our 'Bear Cave' inspired 'finger gym' activities by Candlelight.

8th - 12th January 2018

Health and Self-care:

We help to reinforce the children's knowledge of the importance for them to maintain good health and the need to engage in lots of regular physical exercise, whilst having a healthy diet, by talking about ways for them to be healthy and safe. We encourage all of the children to manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently. For example by practising our regular throwing and catching games with our range of balls and beanbags your children will be developing the muscles and skills they need to be able to wipe themselves correctly after toileting. We teach the children a neat trick so that they can put their own coats on themselves once they are two years old. Ask your child to show you 'Grafton's Coat Trick'! We practice lots of 'Finger Gym Activities', Gary and Lara are regularly coming up with cunning new plans, such as using our tweezers to pick up a variety of small objects e.g. dried lentils and peas which help to strengthen and develop the muscles the children will need for a secure pencil grip, when they are ready.



Physical Development

Moving and Handling:

Health and self-care:

We support the children's Physical Development here at Grafton Childcare by providing lots of opportunities for all of our children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. We also strive to help them to understand the importance of physical activity, and why they should try to make healthy choices in relation to food. Our weekly Tatty Bumpkin Yoga Sessions help to reinforce our message.

Moving and Handling:

To support the children to gain good control and co-ordination in large and small movements and to develop their ability to move confidently in a range of ways, whilst safely negotiating spaces. We shall be setting out some of our huge obstacle courses in the playground. But this week they will have the 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' theme using our Community Playthings Blocks and Planks and our new mini Go Cart Tires as extra materials for our courses.

To support the children's developing ability to handle various pieces of equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing we have planned an assortment of activities using our tweezers, scissors, bean bags and the remote controls for our lanterns. Please read the planning on our weekly blog for more details of individual activities we hope to complete.

Tatty Bumpkin Yoga Classes Inspired by Children:

The Preschoolers will be starting our Spring Term Yoga classes on Friday mornings, the cost of these classes are 100% covered by parents existing 'Additional Services and Consumables Charges' so there will be no additional fees to pay for those children who will be taking part.

Once the term starts we will issue each child with a handout, so that you are able to support your children at home to develop their skills as they progress through the Tatty Bumpkin Yoga programme. Please remember to send your children to Grafton Childcare in suitable clothing so that they are able to join in fully with all of our physical activities. e.g. No dungarees, or thick and chunky clothing, they need to be able to move freely.



15th - 19th January 2018

Phonics Pots -

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

2nd January - 'G' for Grass

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8th January - 'R' for River

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Making Relationships

Making relationships is a vital part of the children's Personal, Social and Emotional Development. Learning how to play cooperatively and taking turns with others is vital. They will over time learn to take account of one another's ideas about how to organise their activities. They will develop the skills needed to show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings, and form positive relationships with the staff and other children here at Grafton Childcare. We will be scaffolding this learning by developing the use of role-play opportunities in the Kid's Shed and adding props such as our Magnifying Glasses and Lanterns.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self-confidence & Self-awareness: Managing Feelings & Behaviour: Making Relationships:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development here at Grafton Childcare involves our helping the children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities. These skills will also develop their 'School Readiness'.

Self-confidence and Self-awareness: Here at Grafton we shall be supporting the children so they are able to gain the confidence to try new activities, and say why they like some activities more than others.

During our regular 'Circle Time' sessions we support their developing confidence to speak in familiar groups, to talk about their ideas, and give them the confidence to choose the resources they need for their chosen activities. But most importantly we give them the confidence to let us know when they do or don't need help. This week we will be using our set of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' puzzles and games as well as our 'Bear Cave' role-play opportunities to support these skills.

Managing Feelings and Behaviour: We will be using the two books *Can't you Sleep Little Bear* and *'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'* and other Bear themed books to encourage the children to talk about how they and others show feelings, talk about their own and others' behaviour, and its consequences, and know that sometimes some behaviour is unacceptable.

During their time at Grafton Childcare the children are provided with many opportunities to work as part of a small group, and learn to understand and follow rules. Over time they will learn to adjust their behaviour to different situations, and take changes of routine in their stride. For example learning to take turns with some of our pieces of equipment and toys and learning that they need to treat some equipment gently. e.g. This week the children will be using our CD Player to listen to some of our Bear stories and action songs, whilst developing good listening and turn taking skills.

22nd - 26th January 2018

Phonics Pots

6th November - 'B' for Blue

inspired by Paddington's blue duffle coat

13th November - 'R' for Red

inspired by Paddington's red welly boots

20th November - 'O' for Orange

inspired by Paddington's marmalade sandwiches

27th November - 'H' for Hats

inspired by his various Black, Red and Yellow Hats

Please remember that all times must fit inside your child's Phonics pot with the lid on, so we do not lose any of your items at Nursery thank you.

Reading

So not surprisingly as our developmental focus this week is on Literacy we will be enjoying lots of opportunities to read some of our Bear stories.

We will also be developing the children's listening skills and encouraging those who are interested to listen to some of our audio versions of the books and enjoying the repetitive rhymes in, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and introducing our instruments during Rhyme Time.

Writing

Which is the second aspect of the Literacy developmental area includes lots of opportunities for the children to take part in mark making and water painting both inside and out. We will be noticing and encouraging the marks children make and the meanings that they give to them, such as when a child uses our rollers, brushes and chalk to mark make. As well as talking to the children about the letters that represent the sounds they hear at the beginning of their own names and other familiar words and demonstrating writing so that children can see spelling in action.



Literacy Development

Reading & Writing:

Literacy Development here at Grafton involves encouraging our children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. We use a combination of the DofE's Phases 1 and 2 'Letters and Sounds' as well as the 'Jolly Phonics' systems. Both of which are used by most of the Primary schools into which our children feed. Our children are provided with access to a very wide range of reading materials such as books and poems, to ignite their interest, including our 200 Going Home Book Bags.



Letters and Sounds: Phase 1 falls largely within the Communication and Language and Literacy areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). In particular, it supports linking sounds and letters in the order in which they occur in words, and naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet. It also draws on and promotes other areas of learning described in the (EYFS), particularly Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Creative Development, where, for example, music plays a key part in developing children's language.

We carry out lots of short focused activities with our 2, 3 and 4 year olds which are mainly adult-led with the intention of teaching the important basic elements of the Letters and Sounds programme such as oral segmenting and blending of familiar words. However, we will also draw upon many of the child led activities that are provided here at Grafton. With the aim to embed the Phase 1 adult-led activities in a language-rich provision that serves the best interests of the children by fully recognising their propensity for play based learning and its importance in their development. It follows that Grafton's high quality play activities offer lots of opportunities to enrich the children's language across the (EYFS) and that staff need to be alert to the opportunities afforded for language development through the children's play based learning. Remember to read our blog each to week where you will find more detailed information about any specific plans and the developmental outcomes and our objectives.




Grafton Childcare's Short Term Topics & Themes Spring Term (1)

Monday 25th December - Monday 1st January - Grafton Childcare will be closed for our Christmas Holiday and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January for the beginning of the Spring Term 2018.



We're Going on a Bear Hunt

New Years Day Closed	2 January	3 	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
Mon. 15th - Fri. 19th January 'Headcount Week' for Funded Children Attendance is essential to secure funding				
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26 

Fairytales


29	30	31	1 February	2
5	6 	7	8	9
Mon. 12th - Fri. 16th February is Half-term for our handful of Term-time only Funded Children				
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21 	22	23
26	27	28	1 March	2 

Peter Rabbit

5 	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29 	Good Friday

Fri. 30th March - Fri. 6th April Grafton is closed for Easter and reopens on Monday 9th April, but not until the 16th April for our handful of Term-time only Funded Children.

Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends

9	10	11 	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	1 May	2	3	4 