

Wildwood Trust – EYFS Learning

How can we help tie in with Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Learning?

- **Communication and Language**

We have a rich environment of British wildlife, where the children have the opportunity to learn and understand individual animal communication methods, through both verbal and body language. They will need to communicate effectively between themselves to explore these methods. This enables them to develop their own narratives and explanations while also understanding the key importance of attentive listening within our parks, as many of our animals will be cautious of excessive noise.

- **Physical Development**

Set in forty acres of beautiful native woodland, our winding walks through the park allow the children to remain active, and to confidently develop their co-ordination, control and movement. This provides a solid base from which to help them understand the importance of physical activity, and to discuss and make healthy choices in relation to food through learning about the diets of our animals. We also have a huge play area for them to explore and enjoy.

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Children are able to form positive relationships and develop respect for others, through learning and working together while exploring our animals and wildlife. A visit to Wildwood can help encourage them to better understand appropriate behaviour in groups and have the confidence to nurture and explore their own abilities and ideas, improving their self-confidence and emotional structure. By spending time around animals, your children can learn to appreciate how their behaviour can affect others feelings and the need to obey rules to ensure that everyone is happy.

- **Literacy**

We provide the opportunity for children to develop their phonemic awareness through a multitude of display and information boards around the park. You will also find numerous question and answer flip-boards at various animal enclosures to help improve their knowledge and understanding. We have free daily animal talks that we would encourage you to attend to learn more about our animals.

- **Mathematics**

Many of our animals possess excellent camouflage and can blend into their enclosure surroundings so you can have fun trying to find and count them. However, our keepers are always available in case you need any extra help with exploring our collection of British animals, and the many other wild birds and beasts that live here. Your children will have ample opportunities to practice using mathematical language as they compare animal quantities, size, weight and patterns.

- **Understanding the World**

We have a huge range of exploring and observational opportunities, helping to guide the children to make sense of their physical world and their community, and discover associated sensitivities. A diverse range of animals will aid in their learning of social structure within the animal kingdom, while working together and communicating will help in their overall development and understanding of British wildlife. With repeat visits children will be able to observe many changes in our collection of animals and plants over time and through the seasons.

- **Expressive Arts and Design**

With a beautiful wooded backdrop, the children will not run out of plenty of things to see and collect. From leaves and twigs to acorns and pine cones, we have a wonderful array that can be taken back to the classroom to explore and further add to their learning. Our animals are a great source of inspiration for artwork but also for songs, music and dance.

