Early Years Long Term Mapping 2025 - 2026

The Meadow: 2 – 3 years

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Theme	**This is Me!**	**Woodland Wonders**	**Winter Wonderland**	**Up in the Sky**	**Where the Wild Things Are**	**Fun in the Sun**
Rationale	The "This is Me" theme encourages children to explore their bodies, celebrate what makes them unique, and recognise how we are both similar and different. Through songs, stories, and movement, children learn about themselves and others in a joyful, playful, and engaging way.	*"Woodland Wonders"* will invite the children to explore the magic of the forest as the seasons change from autumn to winter. Through hands-on, sensory experiences, the children will learn about the natural world and the changes they can see all around them. We will share a variety of traditional tales and stories featuring woodland creatures, encouraging a love of books and storytelling. Woodland-themed activities will give children opportunities to explore and play in nature, developing curiosity, confidence, and independence.	The "Winter Wonderland" topic encourages children to explore the excitement of the winter season through hands-on experiences. Children will learn about weather changes such as rain, wind, frost, ice, and snow, while developing vocabulary like *wet, cold, warm, melt,* and *frost*. The topic also introduces cause and effect, for example what happens when snow falls or ice melts and helps children understand how to keep their bodies warm by wearing coats, hats, scarves, and gloves. Overall, it supports curiosity, language development, and seasonal awareness in a fun and meaningful way.	The topic "Up in the Sky" builds wonder about the world beyond what children see every day, focusing on sky elements and things that fly such as kites, planes, birds, balloons, the sun, moon, and stars. It supports colour and shape recognition through noticing features like the round sun or star shapes, while offering rich opportunities for language development using describing words such as *bright, shiny, round, high,* and *sparkly*. This topic is also ideal for schematic play, especially trajectories, rotation, and transporting, as children explore how things move through the sky. Through play, stories, and observation, children develop curiosity, communication, and early understanding of the world.	The "Where the Wild Things Are" topic invites children into a world of animals, imagination, and exploration. Focusing on a range of wild creatures, the topic supports early learning about animal names, sounds, and movements through stories, play, and sensory experiences. It also links to seasonal change, as children explore the transition from spring to summer, noticing warmer weather, new life, and changes in the natural environment. Designed for our 2–3 year olds, this topic nurtures curiosity, language development, and a growing awareness of the world around them in a fun and engaging way.	The "Fun in the Sun" topic celebrates the amazing year we have shared together. It focuses on how children have changed and grown, planting sunflower seeds as a symbol of their development while reflecting on how much they have achieved. The topic supports children as they begin transitioning to nursery, with visits, special celebrations, a pool party, and a graduation to mark this important milestone. It is a joyful way to recognise friendships, growth, and new beginnings.
Stimuli	1. From Head to Toe by Eric Carle 2. All kinds of People by Emma Damon 3. Ten Little Fingers & Ten little Toes by Mem Fox 4. Head shoulders, Knees and Toes 5. Tommy Thumb	1. The Leaves on the Trees *(to the tune of The Wheels on the Bus)* 2. *That's Not My Hedgehog / That's Not My Fox* 3. Dingle Dangle Scarecrow 4. *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell 5. *Where's My Teddy?* By Jez Alborough 6. *Three Billy Goats Gruff* 7. Christmas Stickman by Julia Donaldson	1. Maisy's Winter Walk by Lucy Cousins 2. One Snowy Night by Nick Butterworth 3. Snowy Day by Ezra Jack 4. Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson 5. Little Snowflake by Anna Milbourne	1. Colours of the rainbow 2. Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown 3. Feelings of the Sky 4. Little Cloud, by Eric Carle 5. Rain, Rain, Go Away 6. Twinkle, twinkle, little star 7. 5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer 8. Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me by Eric Carle	1. Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell 2. Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? By Bill Martin Jr / Eric Carle 3. Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae 4. Walking Through the Jungle by Julie Lacome 5. That's Not My Lion…	1. The Tiny Seed – Eric Carle 2. Jack and the Beanstalk 3. Oliver's Fruit Salad – Vivian French 4. Sunflower House – Eve Bunting 5. The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Eric Carle

Caterpillar Class: 3 – 4 years

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2

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Theme	Heads, shoulders, knees and toes	All Aboard!	Kings and Queens	Once upon a Time	On the Farm	Home Sweet Home
Rationale	This grounding topic supports children in developing a strong sense of self and belonging within their nursery community. Through familiar songs, stories, and playful exploration, children become more aware of themselves and others, recognising similarities and differences in a positive way. The focus on personal, social and emotional development helps children build confidence, independence, and secure relationships, essential foundations for future learning.	This topic takes children on real and imaginary journeys as they explore different ways to travel and move through the world around them. Through stories, songs, and local walks, children notice seasonal changes and landmarks in their community, developing curiosity and awareness of their environment. These shared adventures encourage cooperation, communication, and problem-solving, supporting children's personal, social and emotional development as they learn about the world beyond their nursery.	This topic introduces children to traditional tales, nursery rhymes, and stories set in royal worlds, encouraging imagination, storytelling, and role play. Through characters like Rapunzel and the Grand Old Duke of York, children explore ideas of bravery, kindness, and fairness while building early understanding of history and community roles. Activities such as small world play and castle building foster creativity, cooperation, and language development, helping children make sense of story structure and the world around them.	This topic celebrates the magic of traditional tales, giving children the chance to explore well-loved stories through play, storytelling, and creative expression. By retelling and acting out tales such as *The Gingerbread Man* and *The Enormous Turnip*, children develop language, sequencing, and early literacy skills in meaningful, engaging contexts. The familiar characters and repeated story patterns also help children build confidence, empathy, and an understanding of right and wrong, key aspects of personal and social development.	This topic encourages children to explore life on the farm, discovering how plants, animals, and people work together as the seasons change. Through stories such as *What the Ladybird Heard* and *Farmer Duck*, children learn about caring for living things, teamwork, and the importance of the natural world. Hands-on experiences outdoors help children notice growth and change, develop curiosity, and build their understanding of where our food comes from and how we can look after our environment.	This topic helps children explore the idea of home and belonging, thinking about the people, places, and routines that make them feel safe and cared for. Through stories like *A Squash and a Squeeze* and *Jack and Jill*, children develop understanding of different types of homes and families, as well as problem-solving and empathy. As we prepare for transitions and talk about *Starting School*, children are supported to build confidence, independence, and emotional readiness for their next steps.
Stimuli	 1. Heads, shoulders, knees and toes 2. My world, your world 3. My world, your world 4. Tommy Thumb – who lives in your house? 5. Incredible me 6. Incredible me 7. 5 little ducks – who keeps you safe? 8. Head to toe – Eric Carle	1. The owl and the pussycat 2. The Everywhere Bear 3. The wheels on the bus! 4. You can't take an elephant on the bus! 5. Row, row your boat 6. The night before christmas 7. The Polar Express	1. London bridge is falling down! 2. Chicken Licken 3. Chicken Licken 4. The Grand Old Duke of York 5. Rapunzel 6. Rapunzel	1. Little Red Riding Hood 2. Little Red Riding Hood 3. The Enormous Turnip 4. The Enormous Turnip 5.	1. What the ladybird heard 2. What the ladybird heard 3. Old Macdonald 4. Farmer Duck 5. Farmer Duck 6. Farmer in the Dell	1. Squash and a Squeeze 2. Squash and a Squeeze 3. Jack and Jill 4. Who lives here? 5. Who lives here? 6. Starting School 7. Starting School

Reception: 4 – 5 years

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2

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Theme	Marvellous Me!	Into the Woods	The Enchanted Kingdom	Super Detectives	Creepy Crawlies	Growing and Changing
Rationale	The theme *Marvelous Me* encourages children to explore their bodies, celebrate what makes them unique, and notice how we are all similar and different. Through songs, stories, and movement, children will enjoy learning about themselves and others in a fun, playful way.	The children will explore traditional tales, develop their imagination and understand of story structures and characters. We will also observe seasonal changes as autumn turns into winter, exploring the natural world through outdoor play and woodland-themed activities. As we approach Christmas, we will share festive stories linked to the forest, to build excitement and wonder for the season.	Welcome to *The Enchanted Kingdom*—a magical world of castles, dragons, fairies and more enchanted creatures! Through stories, songs, and imaginative play, children will explore exciting adventures that spark creativity and curiosity. This fun-filled theme supports speaking, listening, and creative skills as children share ideas, act out stories, and make their own magical creations. A joyful journey of imagination and discovery awaits!	In our *Super Detectives!* topic, children will become curious investigators, explore clues and solve mysteries! Linked to the theme *People Who Help Us*, they'll discover how real-life heroes—like police officers, doctors, firefighters, and many others—use their skills to help others every day. Through stories, role play, and exciting hands-on activities, children will build their thinking, communication, and teamwork skills while learning about different jobs in our community. A fun-filled adventure of curiosity, problem-solving, and helping others!	In our *Creepy Crawlies* topic, children will explore the fascinating world of minibeasts—discovering where they live, how they move, and why they are important. This theme supports *Understanding the World* as children observe, compare, and care for living things in their environment. Through counting legs, sorting creatures by size or colour, and exploring patterns in nature, children will also develop their *maths* skills in fun, hands-on ways. A wonderful opportunity to explore, investigate, and learn through curiosity and play!	Our *Growing and Changing* theme is a wonderful celebration of how much the children—and the world around them—have grown throughout the year. We'll reflect on their amazing progress, build confidence for moving up to their new year group, and celebrate all they have achieved together. Children will also explore how nature grows and changes, learning about plants, flowers, and vegetables through hands-on experiences like planting, observing, and caring for living things. This topic supports understanding of growth in both themselves and the natural world, encouraging curiosity, independence, and pride as they prepare for new adventures ahead!
Stimuli						