

Within Pathway 1 of the Sensory provision, we are currently using a topic based approach to the Curriculum. Our overall topic this term is 'changes' and our chosen themes for this half term are: 'The seasons' and 'Changes of materials.'

Pathway 1 focus' on five different aspects of the Curriculum: Communication, Cognition, Social interaction, Sensory Motor and Life skills. Our aim is to link our themes within our curriculum subjects to create an exciting and rich learning environment for our students.

There are many activities that you will be able to do at home with your child to help further their experience and learning. Below is a range of activities that link to our themes this half term.

- 'Weather' massage (see PDF file)
- Explore different objects/materials that represent the seasons (leaves, ice cubes, fan, water spray and umbrella, flowers)
- Explore the changes of materials (solid chocolate and melted chocolate, ice cubes and water, hot and cold, dry sand and wet sand.)
- Changes of music (fast tempo, slow tempo)
- Water play (different temperatures, different objects in the water.)

Pathway 2 Homework

The overall theme for Spring term is focusing on Catastrophes and Disasters. As part of Literacy session, students have been focusing on the story of Noah's Ark. You can support your child by practicing the following at home

-Animals names

-Identifying where animals live (e.g. in the water, at a farm)

-Counting toy animals (or any other small objects as part of everyday activities) encouraging your child to touch each animal as they count.

-PECS activities to create symbol sentences to support vocabulary (contact class teacher for resources)

-Reading story books focusing on animals (ask your child to find animals in the pictures)

For any further clarification or support with resources, please contact your class teacher.

Portland Academy: Pathway 3 Homework Ideas

Topic: Disasters & Catastrophes

Lots of these are 'natural' disasters and can be linked to poor weather conditions, so it is important to know what the weather is going to be like and where to find the right information. With your child choose some of the following ideas to support their learning. You can then begin to separate 'natural' from 'man-made' disasters.

- use the BBC red button on your TV remote control and type in the number **400**:
 - this will give you more options to find out about local, regional and world weather (**401, 402, 403, 404**)
 - have a look at the weather symbols used: can you interpret what they mean?
- use the **bbc.co.uk** website and select '**Weather**': this will give you a five day forecast and more symbols to look at; you can type in other UK postcodes to see what the weather is like in Newcastle or Edinburgh etc.

History is a wonderful subject to learn about our world. We can all remember significant disasters and these are fascinating for any pupil. Can you share your knowledge of a famous disaster or catastrophe with your child?

- encourage them to interview you, a grandparent or other relative/ family friend:
 - remind them to use the questions what happened/ why did it happen/ when did it happen/ why/ where
- can you help them find some pictures/ photographs/ videos online to show this disaster?
 - talk about these images and make relevant observations
- suggested disasters: **Titanic, Pompeii, Fire of London, Hillsborough, 9/11, Aberfan, Hindenburg, Chernobyl**

Spring Term 2017 Topic – Changes

In sixth form this term, the students are working on activities that involve CHANGE. They are learning about how the seasons and weather change and what happens in their everyday lives that is affected by these changes. Some suggested home-supported activities are:

- Watching weather forecast, identifying meaning of symbols, reading temperatures. Discussing which parts of country are colder, wetter etc. Locating north, south, east, west and where Sunderland is
- Reciting months of year in order, sorting into seasons
- Saying when own Birthday is, which season. Asking when others' Birthdays are and working out whose Birthday comes first on calendar
- Discuss putting clock backwards and forwards, how hours of darkness change throughout the year

- Learning personal clothes and shoes sizes, locating these when shopping
- Practising measurement terms such as long, short, narrow, wide when discussing clothing
- Comparing clothing types and which are suitable for different weather
- Ordering 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. in range of settings e.g. what you prefer, what you are doing on Saturday
- Input data into a SAT NAV, repeat instructions and identify left and right
- Discuss foods we eat at different times of year: warm broth in winter, ice cream in summer etc.
- Talk about how you have changed as you get older e.g. I used to like Thomas the Tank Engine, now I like Dr Who
- Read care labels/ symbols on clothing
- Talk about what makes emotions change
- How words change due to dialect e.g. what does 'canny' or 'aye' mean?