

Basic skills are the important building-blocks of learning. Speaking and Listening, counting, reading and writing.

Help your child acquire basic skills by:

- taking every opportunity which arises to talk about things
- ask them questions to make them think about the world
- give them new words to extend their vocabulary and articulate their feelings and ideas.
- let them listen to adult conversations, even if they only appear to be playing, they will be picking up language!
- look for patterns and shapes as you are out and about—always listen to your child's ideas, however "odd" they may seem
- counting can be explored in all situations, but please be careful to encourage children to count carefully (touch if possible) to ensure one-to one correspondence rather than just chant numbers i.e. run from tree to tree in the park and count each one as you reach it.
- let your child help when you are cooking if you can – there is a wealth of opportunity to count ingredients such as currants, carrots, peas etc.
- read to your child as much as you can—let them see you reading too!
- always switch off the television or radio if you are reading to your child, encourage them to look carefully at the pictures and tell you what they see.
- spend time with books and talk the language of books, teach them to handle books carefully, go to the library to borrow books and bookshops to spend birthday money.

Once Upon a Time.....



Robin Class

Spring 2 2010

Helping your child's learning at home....





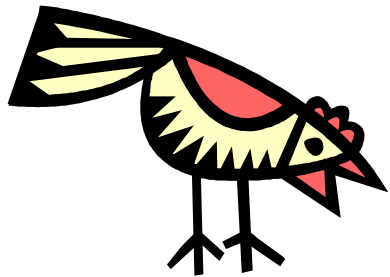
Reception Topic for Spring Term Two

Once Upon a Time.....

This topic will focus on a different traditional tale each week. We will be reading and re-telling different versions of the stories, exploring the characters and the settings. We will be encouraging the children to re-tell the stories in their own words using puppets and acting out the stories. The tales will also provide the focus for our writing activities.

In science we will be exploring the properties of different materials. This will link to our art focus on textiles where the children will be sewing & weaving. In cookery we will be making gingerbread men & porridge.

In maths our number focus will be on counting & ordering numbers. We will also be weighing, measuring & exploring pattern.



Things you can do at home:

- ◆ Tell your child a story-one of your favourite traditional tales.
- ◆ Make a simple puppet of a story character using recycled materials—an old sock is ideal.
- ◆ Cut out pictures of different materials from magazines— sort into things made from glass, wood, paper, plastic or metal.
- ◆ Do some cooking together, weighing & measuring ingredients.
- ◆ Visit the library and borrow some traditional stories— old favourites and some less well known tales.

