



Spring 2 – Down on the Farm

Introduction

This term's "**Down on the Farm**" theme will immerse children in the wonders of farm life and springtime growth. Through exploring farm animals, planting seeds, and observing seasonal changes, children will gain a hands-on understanding of how things grow and thrive on a farm. Thank you for joining us on this journey as we learn about the importance of farms and caring for living things!

Communication and Language

I Spy Farm and Spring Signs: Children will play "I Spy" on the farm, looking for signs of spring and discussing seasonal changes.

Rhyming and Sequencing: Using the story *What the Ladybird Heard*, children will identify rhyming words, sequence story events, and engage in rhyming games.

Animal Sounds and Role Play: Children will match animal sounds to farm animals and role-play as farmers and animals, using small-world setups to enhance vocabulary.

Farmyard Mystery Game: Children will take turns guessing animals from sounds made by others, helping build listening and descriptive skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Caring for Others: Discussing the role of the farmer, children will learn about caring for animals and plants. They'll explore questions like "What do animals and plants need?" and "How can we help care for them?"

HeartSmart: This term's HeartSmart topic, "**Don't Hold on to What's Wrong!**", will focus on empathy, kindness, and forgiveness. Children will be encouraged to express their feelings, let go of negative emotions, and support one another in a positive environment.

Physical Development

Farmyard Obstacle Course: Inspired by *What the Ladybird Heard*, children will create and navigate obstacle courses representing the farmyard, practicing teamwork and giving instructions.

Animal Movement Games: Children will move like farm animals, imitating actions like trotting like a horse or waddling like a duck, building coordination and agility.

Fine Motor Skills: Activities will include drawing and tracing animals, planting seeds, and building small obstacle courses for toy animals, enhancing fine motor control.

Circus-Themed Movement and Coordination: In the "**iCommunicate Fun at the Circus**" unit, children will develop agility, balance, and object control through circus-themed activities. They will work on running, dodging, pivoting, and ball skills while learning to cooperate, take turns, and use newly introduced vocabulary. This activity also promotes core strength and balance, both static and dynamic.



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Literacy

Exploring Farm Books: We will explore farm-themed books and non-fiction texts to learn about animals and plants. Children will visit the library to find more books about farms.

Phonics Practice: Children will match animal names to sounds, identify initial sounds, and practice blending sounds. Tricky words will include familiar sight words and animal names.

Story Mapping and Retelling: Using *What the Ladybird Heard*, children will create story maps and practice sequencing the story, acting out scenes and creating thought bubbles to express what the ladybird might be thinking.

Planting Instructions: Children will write and follow instructions to plant and grow cress, encouraging them to understand sequencing and descriptive language.

Mathematics

Number Bonds and Counting: Children will create number bonds using ladybird spots, count farm animals, and add or compare quantities of different animals.

Dice and Counting Games: Rolling dice to add spots to ladybird illustrations, children will practice subitising, addition, and comparing quantities.

Pictogram of Favourite Animals: Creating a class pictogram of favourite farm animals, children will learn about data representation and comparison.

Understanding the World

Planting and Growing: Children will plant cress seeds, observe growth, and discuss what plants need to survive. They'll also explore different seeds from fruits and vegetables.

Farm Maps and Local Farms: Inspired by *What the Ladybird Heard*, children will create maps of a farmyard and locate local farms on a map, learning about different crops and animals found nearby. A visit from a local farmer is a wonderful way for the children to understand the importance of farming and the hard work that comes with it.

Ladybird and Minibeast Investigation: Through stories, videos, and outdoor exploration, children will learn about ladybirds and other minibeasts, investigating their habitats and characteristics.

Expressive Arts and Design

Nature Art and Ladybird Crafts: Children will create nature collages, fingerprint ladybirds, and paint ladybirds on pebbles, exploring textures and shapes.

Scarecrow Outfit Design: Using various materials, children will design a new outfit for a scarecrow in the farmer's field, engaging their creativity.

Musical Farm Rhymes: Singing farm-themed songs like *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*, children will add sounds for each animal, exploring rhythm and sound patterns.