

Development Matters 2020

Three and Four-Year-Olds

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy listening to longer stories and can remember much of what happens. • Can find it difficult to pay attention to more than one thing at a time. 	<p>Offer children at least a daily story time as well as sharing books throughout the session.</p> <p>If they are busy in their play, children may not be able to switch their attention and listen to what you say. When you need to, help young children to switch their attention from what they are doing to what you are saying. Give them a clear prompt. Suggestion: say the child's name and then: "Please stop and listen".</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a wider range of vocabulary. • Understand a question or instruction that has two parts, such as "Get your coat and wait at the door". • Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?" 	<p>Extend children's vocabulary, explaining unfamiliar words and concepts and making sure children have understood what they mean through stories and other activities. These should include words and concepts which occur frequently in books and other contexts, but are not used every day by many young children. Suggestion: use scientific vocabulary when talking about the parts of a flower or an insect, or different types of rocks. Examples from 'The Gruffalo' include: 'stroll', 'roasted', 'knobbly', 'wart' and 'feast'.</p> <p>Provide children with a rich language environment by sharing books and activities with them. Encourage children to talk about what is happening and give their own ideas. High-quality picture books are a rich source for learning new vocabulary and more complex forms of language: "Excuse me, I'm very hungry. Do you think I could have tea with you?"</p> <p>Shared book-reading is a powerful way of having extended conversations with children. It helps children to build their vocabulary.</p> <p>Offer children lots of interesting things to investigate, like different living things. This will encourage them to ask questions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing a large repertoire of songs. • Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story. 	<p>Consider which core books, songs and rhymes you want children to become familiar with and grow to love. Activities planned around those core books will help the children to practise the vocabulary and language from those books. It will also support their creativity and play.</p> <p>Small world play based on 'Dear Zoo' will help children to learn the names of the different animals. Or they could shop for the different types of fruit in 'Handa's Surprise'. Pick them out and talk about how they look. This will help children to name the different types of fruit. Back in the setting, taste them and talk about their texture and smell.</p> <p>Outdoor play themed around 'We're Going a Bear Hunt' might lead to the children creating their own 'hunts' and inventing their own rhymes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop their communication, but may continue to have problems with irregular tenses and plurals, such as 'runned' for 'ran', 'swimmed' for 'swam'. • May have problems saying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - some sounds: r, j, th, ch, and sh - multisyllabic words such as 'pterodactyl', 'planetarium' or 'hippopotamus' 	<p>Children may use ungrammatical forms like 'I swimmmed'. Instead of correcting them, recast what the child said. For example: "How lovely that you swam in the sea on holiday".</p> <p>When children have difficulties with correct pronunciation, reply naturally to what they say. Pronounce the word correctly so they hear the correct model.</p>

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use longer sentences of four to six words. 	<p>Expand on children’s phrases. For example, if a child says, “going out shop”, you could reply: “Yes, Jason is going to the shop”. As well as adding language, add new ideas. For example: “I wonder if they’ll get the 26 bus?”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to express a point of view and to debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions. • Can start a conversation with an adult or a friend and continue it for many turns. • Use talk to organise themselves and their play: “Let’s go on a bus... you sit there... I’ll be the driver.” 	<p>Model language that promotes thinking and challenges children: “I can see that’s empty – I wonder what happened to the snail that used to be in that shell?”</p> <p>Open-ended questions like “I wonder what would happen if....?” encourage more thinking and longer responses. Sustained shared thinking is especially powerful. This is when two or more individuals (adult and child, or children) ‘work together’ in an intellectual way to solve a problem, clarify a concept, evaluate activities, extend a narrative etc.</p> <p>Help children to elaborate on how they are feeling: “You look sad. Are you upset because Jasmin doesn’t want to do the same thing as you?”</p>
<p>★ Observation Checkpoint</p>	<p>Around the age of 3, can the child shift from one task to another if you fully obtain their attention, for example, by using their name?</p> <p>Around the age of 4, is the child using sentences of four to six words – “I want to play with cars” or “What’s that thing called?”</p> <p>Can the child use sentences joined up with words like ‘because’, ‘or’, ‘and’? For example: “I like ice cream because it makes my tongue shiver.”</p> <p>Is the child using the future and past tense: “I am going to the park” and “I went to the shop”?</p> <p>Can the child answer simple ‘why’ questions?</p>

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. This helps them to achieve a goal they have chosen, or one which is suggested to them. 	<p>Respond to children's increasing independence and sense of responsibility. As the year proceeds, increase the range of resources and challenges, outdoors and inside. One example of this might be starting the year with light hammers, plastic golf tees and playdough. This equipment will offer children a safe experience of hammering. Wait until the children are ready to follow instructions and use tools safely. Then you could introduce hammers with short handles, nails with large heads, and soft blocks of wood.</p> <p>Widen the range of activities that children feel confident to take part in, outdoors and inside. Model inviting new activities that encourage children to come over and join in, such as folding paper to make animals, sewing or weaving.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community. 	<p>Give children appropriate tasks to carry out. Suggestion: they can fetch milk cartons or fruit. They can wash up their own plates after their snack.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Become more outgoing with unfamiliar people, in the safe context of their setting. Show more confidence in new social situations. 	<p>Invite trusted people into the setting to talk about and show the work they do. Some examples of this might be plumbers, artists or firefighters.</p> <p>Take children out on short walks around the neighbourhood. When ready, take them on trips to interesting places like a local museum, theatre or place of worship.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play with one or more other children, extending and elaborating play ideas. Help to find solutions to conflicts and rivalries. For example, accepting that not everyone can be Spider-Man in the game, and suggesting other ideas. 	<p>Involve children in making decisions about room layout and resources. Suggestion: you could set up a special role-play area in response to children's fascination with space. Support children to carry out decisions, respecting the wishes of the rest of the group.</p> <p>Further resource and enrich children's play, based on their interests. Suggestion: children often like to talk about their trips to hairdressers and barbers. You could provide wigs reflecting different ethnicities, combs and brushes etc. to stimulate pretend play around their interest.</p> <p>Notice children who find it difficult to play. They may need extra help to share and manage conflicts. You could set up play opportunities in quiet spaces for them, with just one or two other children. You may need to model positive play and co-operation.</p> <p>Teach children ways of solving conflicts. Suggestion: model how to listen to someone else and agree a compromise.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasingly follow rules, understanding why they are important. Do not always need an adult to remind them of a rule. 	<p>Explain why we have rules and display a small number of necessary rules visually as reminders. Suggestion: display a photo showing a child taking just one piece of fruit at the snack table.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop appropriate ways of being assertive. Talk with others to solve conflicts. Talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'. 	<p>Children with high levels of negative emotion need clear boundaries and routines. They also need practitioners to interact calmly and sensitively with them.</p> <p>Model ways that you calm yourself down, such as stopping and taking a few deep breaths. This can help children to learning ways to calm themselves. If adults are excessively challenging or controlling, children can become more aggressive in the group. They may increasingly 'act out' their feelings. For example, when they feel sad, they might hit another child to make that child feel sad as well.</p>

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to understand how others might be feeling. 	<p>Help children explore situations from different points of view. Talk together about how others might be feeling. Bring these ideas into children's pretend play: "I wonder how the chicken is feeling, now the fox is creeping up on her?"</p>
<p>★ Observation Checkpoint</p>	<p>Around the age of 3, can the child sometimes manage to share or take turns with others, with adult guidance and understanding 'yours' and 'mine'?</p> <p>Can the child settle to some activities for a while?</p> <p>Around the age of 4, does the child play alongside others or do they always want to play alone?</p> <p>Does the child take part in pretend play (for example, being 'mummy' or 'daddy'?)</p> <p>Does the child take part in other pretend play with different roles – being the Gruffalo, for example? Can the child generally negotiate solutions to conflicts in their play?</p> <p>Note: watch out for children who seem worried, sad or angry for much of the time, children who seem to flit from one thing to the next or children who seem to stay for over-long periods doing the same thing, and become distressed if they are encouraged to do something different You will need to work closely with parents and other agencies to find out more about these developmental difficulties.</p>

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop their movement, balancing, riding (scooters, trikes and bikes) and ball skills. • Go up steps and stairs, or climb up apparatus, using alternate feet. • Skip, hop, stand on one leg and hold a pose for a game like musical statues. • Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks. 	<p>Encourage children to transfer physical skills learnt in one context to another one. Suggestion: children might first learn to hammer in pegs to mark their Forest school boundary, using a mallet. Then, they are ready to learn how to use hammers and nails at the woodwork bench.</p> <p>Encourage children to paint, chalk or make marks with water on large vertical surfaces. Suggestion: use walls as well as easels to stimulate large shoulder and arm movements. These experiences help children to 'cross the mid-line' of their bodies. When they draw a single line from left to right, say, they don't need to pass the paintbrush from one hand to another or have to move their whole body along.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start taking part in some group activities which they make up for themselves, or in teams. • Are increasingly able to use and remember sequences and patterns of movements which are related to music and rhythm. 	<p>Lead movement-play activities when appropriate. These will challenge and enhance children's physical skills and development – using both fixed and flexible resources, indoors and outside.</p> <p>Model the vocabulary of movement – 'gallop', 'slither' – and encourage children to use it. Also model the vocabulary of instruction – 'follow', 'lead', 'copy' – and encourage children to use it.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match their developing physical skills to tasks and activities in the setting. For example, they decide whether to crawl, walk or run across a plank, depending on its length and width. 	<p>Encourage children to become more confident, competent, creative and adaptive movers. Then, extend their learning by providing opportunities to play outdoors in larger areas, such as larger parks and spaces in the local area, or through Forest or Beach school.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. For example, choosing a spade to enlarge a small hole they dug with a trowel. • Collaborate with others to manage large items, such as moving a long plank safely, carrying large hollow blocks. 	<p>Explain why safety is an important factor in handling tools, and moving equipment and materials. Have clear and sensible rules for everybody to follow.</p>
<p>★ Observation Checkpoint</p>	<p>Look out for children who appear to be overweight or to have poor dental health, where this has not been picked up and acted on at an earlier health check. Discuss this sensitively with parents and involve the child's health visitor. Adapt activities to suit their particular needs, so all children feel confident to move and take part in physical play.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors. • Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils. • Start to eat independently and learning how to use a knife and fork. • Show a preference for a dominant hand. 	<p>You can begin by showing children how to use one-handed tools (scissors and hammers, for example) and then guide them with hand-over-hand help. Gradually reduce the help you are giving and allow the child to use the tool independently.</p> <p>The tripod grip is a comfortable way to hold a pencil or pen. It gives the child good control. The pen is pinched between the ball of the thumb and the fore-finger, supported by the middle finger with the other fingers tucked into the hand. You can help children to develop this grip with specially designed pens and pencils, or grippers. Encourage children to pick up small objects like individual gravel stones or tiny bits of chalk to draw with.</p>

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be increasingly independent as they get dressed and undressed, for example, putting coats on and doing up zips. • Be increasingly independent in meeting their own care needs, e.g. brushing teeth, using the toilet, washing and drying their hands thoroughly. • Make healthy choices about food, drink, activity and toothbrushing. 	<p>Encourage children by helping them, but leaving them to do the last steps, such as pulling up their zip after you have started it off. Gradually reduce your help until the child can do each step on their own.</p> <p>Talk to children about the importance of eating healthily and brushing their teeth. Consider how to support oral health. For example, some settings use a toothbrushing programme.</p> <p>Talk to children about why it's important to wash their hands carefully and throughout the day, including before they eat and after they've used the toilet.</p>
<p>★ Observation Checkpoint</p>	<p>Most, but not all, children are reliably dry during the day by the age of 4. Support children who are struggling with toilet training, in partnership with their parents. Seek medical advice, if necessary, from a health visitor or GP.</p>

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the five key concepts about print: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - print has meaning - print can have different purposes - we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom - the names of the different parts of a book - page sequencing 	<p>Draw children's attention to a wide range of examples of print with different functions. These could be a sign to indicate a bus stop or to show danger, a menu for choosing what you want to eat, or a logo that stands for a particular shop.</p> <p>When reading to children, sensitively draw their attention to the parts of the books, for example, the cover, the author, the page number. Show children how to handle books and to turn the pages one at a time. Show children where the text is, and how English print is read left to right and top to bottom. Show children how sentences start with capital letters and end with full stops. Explain the idea of a 'word' to children, pointing out how some words are longer than others and how there is always a space before and after a word.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - spot and suggest rhymes - count or clap syllables in a word - recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother 	<p>Help children tune into the different sounds in English by making changes to rhymes and songs, like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - changing a word so that there is still a rhyme: "Twinkle, twinkle chocolate bar" - making rhymes personal to children: "Hey diddle diddle, the cat and fiddle, the cow jumped over Haroon." <p>Deliberately miss out a word in a rhyme, so the children have to fill it in: "Run, run, as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the gingerbread –."</p> <p>Use magnet letters to spell a word ending like 'at'. Encourage children to put other letters in front to create rhyming words like 'hat' and 'cat'.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary. 	<p>Choose books which reflect diversity.</p> <p>Regular sharing of books and discussion of children's ideas and responses (dialogic reading) helps children to develop their early enjoyment and understanding of books. Simple picture books, including those with no text, can be powerful ways of learning new vocabulary (for example, naming what's in the picture). More complex stories will help children to learn a wider range of vocabulary. This type of vocabulary is not in everyday use, but occurs frequently in books and other contexts. Examples include: 'caterpillar', 'enormous', 'forest', 'roar' and 'invitation'.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; write 'm' for mummy. Write some or all of their name. 	<p>Motivate children to write by providing opportunities in a wide range of ways. Suggestions: clipboards outdoors, chalks for paving stones, boards and notepads in the home corner. Children enjoy having a range of pencils, crayons, chalks and pens to choose from. Apps on tablets enable children to mix marks, photos and video to express meanings and tell their own stories. Children are also motivated by simple home-made books, different coloured paper and paper decorated with fancy frames.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write some letters accurately. 	<p>Help children to learn to form their letters accurately. First, they need a wide-ranging programme of physical skills development, inside and outdoors. Include large-muscle co-ordination: whole body, leg, arm and foot. This can be through climbing, swinging, messy play and parachute games etc. Plan for small-muscle co-ordination: hands and fingers. This can be through using scissors, learning to sew, eating with cutlery, using small brushes for painting and pencils for drawing. Children also need to know the language of direction ('up', 'down', 'round', 'back' etc).</p>

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually ('subitising'). Recite numbers past 5. Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5. Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle'). Show 'finger numbers' up to 5. Link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5. 	<p>Point to small groups of two or three objects: "Look, there are two!" Occasionally ask children how many there are in a small set of two or three.</p> <p>Regularly say the counting sequence, in a variety of playful contexts, inside and outdoors, forwards and backwards, sometimes going to high numbers. For example: hide and seek, rocket-launch count-downs.</p> <p>Count things and then repeat the last number. For example: "1, 2, 3 – 3 cars". Point out the number of things whenever possible; so, rather than just 'chairs', 'apples' or 'children', say 'two chairs', 'three apples', 'four children'.</p> <p>Ask children to get you a number of things, and emphasise the total number in your conversation with the child.</p> <p>Use small numbers to manage the learning environment. Suggestions: have a pot labelled '5 pencils' or a crate for '3 trucks'. Draw children's attention to these throughout the session and especially at tidy-up time: "How many pencils should be in this pot?" or "How many have we got?" etc.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiment with their own symbols and marks as well as numerals. Solve real world mathematical problems with numbers up to 5. Compare quantities using language: 'more than', 'fewer than'. 	<p>Encourage children in their own ways of recording (for example) how many balls they managed to throw through the hoop. Provide numerals nearby for reference. Suggestions: wooden numerals in a basket or a number track on the fence.</p> <p>Discuss mathematical ideas throughout the day, inside and outdoors. Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "I think Adam has got more crackers..." - support children to solve problems using fingers, objects and marks: "There are four of you, but there aren't enough chairs..." - draw children's attention to differences and changes in amounts, such as those in stories like 'The Enormous Turnip'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about and explore 2D and 3D shapes (for example, circles, rectangles, triangles and cuboids) using informal and mathematical language: 'sides', 'corners'; 'straight', 'flat', 'round'. 	<p>Encourage children to play freely with blocks, shapes, shape puzzles and shape-sorters. Sensitive support and discuss questions like: "What is the same and what is different?"</p> <p>Encourage children to talk informally about shape properties using words like 'sharp corner', 'pointy' or 'curvy'. Talk about shapes as you play with them: "We need a piece with a straight edge."</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand position through words alone – for example, "The bag is under the table," – with no pointing. 	<p>Discuss position in real contexts. Suggestions: how to shift the leaves off a path, or sweep water away down the drain.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe a familiar route. Discuss routes and locations, using words like 'in front of' and 'behind'. 	<p>Use spatial words in play, including 'in', 'on', 'under', 'up', 'down', 'besides' and 'between'. Suggestion: "Let's put the troll under the bridge and the billy goat beside the stream."</p> <p>Take children out to shops or the park: recall the route and the order of things seen on the way.</p> <p>Set up obstacle courses, interesting pathways and hiding places for children to play with freely. When appropriate, ask children to describe their route and give directions to each other.</p>

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
	<p>Provide complex train tracks, with loops and bridges, or water-flowing challenges with guttering that direct the flow to a water tray, for children to play freely with.</p> <p>Read stories about journeys, such as 'Rosie's Walk'.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make comparisons between objects relating to size, length, weight and capacity. 	<p>Provide experiences of size changes. Suggestions: "Can you make a puddle larger?", "When you squeeze a sponge, does it stay small?", "What happens when you stretch dough, or elastic?"</p> <p>Talk with children about their everyday ways of comparing size, length, weight and capacity. Model more specific techniques, such as lining up ends of lengths and straightening ribbons, discussing accuracy: "Is it exactly...?"</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select shapes appropriately: flat surfaces for building, a triangular prism for a roof etc. • Combine shapes to make new ones – an arch, a bigger triangle etc. 	<p>Provide a variety of construction materials like blocks and interlocking bricks. Provide den-making materials. Allow children to play freely with these materials, outdoors and inside. When appropriate, talk about the shapes and how their properties suit the purpose.</p> <p>Provide shapes that combine to make other shapes, such as pattern blocks and interlocking shapes, for children to play freely with. When appropriate, discuss the different designs that children make. Occasionally suggest challenges, so that children build increasingly more complex constructions.</p> <p>Use tidy-up time to match blocks to silhouettes or fit things in containers, describing and naming shapes. Suggestion: "Where does this triangular one /cylinder /cuboid go?"</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about and identifies the patterns around them. For example: stripes on clothes, designs on rugs and wallpaper. Use informal language like 'pointy', 'spotty', 'blobs' etc. • Extend and create ABAB patterns – stick, leaf, stick, leaf. • Notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern. • Begin to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using words such as 'first', 'then...' 	<p>Provide patterns from different cultures, such as fabrics.</p> <p>Provide a range of natural and everyday objects and materials, as well as blocks and shapes, for children to play with freely and to make patterns with. When appropriate, children to continue patterns and spot mistakes.</p> <p>Engage children in following and inventing movement and music patterns, such as clap, clap, stamp.</p> <p>Talk about patterns of events, in cooking or getting dressed. Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'First', 'then', 'after', 'before' - "Every day we..." - "Every evening we..." <p>Talk about the sequence of events in stories.</p> <p>Use vocabulary like 'morning', 'afternoon', 'evening' and 'night-time', 'earlier', 'later', 'too late', 'too soon', 'in a minute'.</p> <p>Count down to forthcoming events on the calendar in terms of number of days or sleeps. Refer to the days of the week, and the day before or day after, 'yesterday' and 'tomorrow'.</p>

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. • Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties. • Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. 	<p>Provide interesting natural environments for children to explore freely outdoors.</p> <p>Make collections of natural materials to investigate and talk about. Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contrasting pieces of bark - different types of leaves and seeds - different types of rocks - different shells and pebbles from the beach <p>Provide equipment to support these investigations. Suggestions: magnifying glasses or a tablet with a magnifying app.</p> <p>Encourage children to talk about what they see.</p> <p>Model observational and investigational skills. Ask out loud: "I wonder if...?"</p> <p>Plan and introduce new vocabulary, encouraging children to use it to discuss their findings and ideas.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history. 	<p>Spend time with children talking about photos, memories. Encourage children to retell what their parents told them about their life-story and family.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show interest in different occupations. 	<p>Invite different people to visit from a range of occupations, such as a plumber, a farmer, a vet, a member of the emergency services or an author.</p> <p>Plan and introduce new vocabulary related to the occupation, and encourage children to use it in their talks and play.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore how things work. 	<p>Provide mechanical equipment for children to play with and investigate. Suggestions: wind-up toys, pulleys, sets of cogs with pegs and boards.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant seeds and care for growing plants. • Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal. • Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. 	<p>Show and explain the concepts of growth, change and decay with natural materials. Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - plant seeds and bulbs so children observe growth and decay over time - observe an apple core going brown and mouldy over time - help children to care for animals and take part in first-hand scientific explorations of animal life cycles, such as caterpillars or chick eggs <p>Plan and introduce new vocabulary related to the exploration. Encourage children to use it in their discussions, as they care for living things.</p> <p>Encourage children to refer to books, wall displays and online resources. This will support their investigations and extend their knowledge and ways of thinking.</p>

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore and talk about different forces they can feel. 	<p>Draw children's attention to forces. Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how the water pushes up when they try to push a plastic boat under it - how they can stretch elastic, snap a twig, but can't bend a metal rod - magnetic attraction and repulsion <p>Plan and introduce new vocabulary related to the exploration, and encourage children to use it.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice. 	<p>Provide children with opportunities to change materials from one state to another. Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cooking – combining different ingredients, and then cooling or heating (cooking) them - melting – leave ice cubes out in the sun, see what happens when you shake salt onto them <p>Explore how different materials sink and float.</p> <p>Explore how you can shine light through some materials, but not others. Investigate shadows.</p> <p>Plan and introduce new vocabulary related to the exploration, and encourage children to use it.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop positive attitudes about the differences between people. 	<p>Ensure that resources reflect the diversity of life in modern Britain.</p> <p>Encourage children to talk about the differences they notice between people, whilst also drawing their attention to similarities between different families and communities.</p> <p>Answer their questions and encourage discussion. Suggestion: talk positively about different appearances, skin colours and hair types.</p> <p>Celebrate and value cultural, religious and community events and experiences.</p> <p>Help children to learn each other's names, modelling correct pronunciation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos. 	<p>Practitioners can create books and displays about children's families around the world, or holidays they have been on. Encourage children to talk about each other's families and ask questions.</p> <p>Use a diverse range of props, puppets, dolls and books to encourage children to notice and talk about similarities and differences.</p>

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in simple pretend play, using an object to represent something else even though they are not similar. • Begin to develop complex stories using small world equipment like animal sets, dolls and dolls houses etc. • Make imaginative and complex 'small worlds' with blocks and construction kits, such as a city with different buildings and a park. 	<p>Children generally start to develop pretend play with 'rules' when they 3 or 4 years old. Suggestion: offer pinecones in the home corner for children to pour into pans and stir like pasta.</p> <p>Some rules are self-created (the pole is now a horse, or the pinecones are now pasta in the pot). Other rules are group-created (to play in the home corner, you must accept the rule that one of your friends is pretending to be a baby).</p> <p>Provide lots of flexible and open-ended resources for children's imaginative play.</p> <p>Help children to negotiate roles in play and sort out conflicts. Notice children who are not taking part in pretend play, and help them to join in.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore different materials freely, in order to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make. • Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them. • Join different materials and explore different textures. 	<p>Offer opportunities to explore scale. Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - long strips of wallpaper - child size boxes - different surfaces to work on e.g. paving, floor, tabletop or easel <p>Listen and understand what children want to create before offering suggestions.</p> <p>Invite artists, musicians and craftspeople into the setting, to widen the range of ideas which children can draw on.</p> <p>Suggestions: glue and masking tape for sticking pieces of scrap materials onto old cardboard boxes, hammers and nails, glue guns, paperclips and fasteners.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create closed shapes with continuous lines, and begin to use these shapes to represent objects. • Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details. • Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises. • Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear etc. 	<p>Help children to develop their drawing and model-making. Encourage them to develop their own creative ideas. Spend sustained time alongside them. Show interest in the meanings children give to their drawings and models. Talk together about these meanings.</p> <p>Encourage children to draw from their imagination and observation.</p> <p>Help children to add details to their drawings by selecting interesting objects to draw, and by pointing out key features to children and discussing them.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore colour and colour-mixing. 	<p>Talk to children about the differences between colours. Help them to explore and refine their colour-mixing – for example: "How does blue become green?"</p> <p>Introduce children to the work of artists from across times and cultures. Help them to notice where features of artists' work overlap with the children's, for example in details, colour, movement or line.</p>

3 & 4-year-olds will be learning to:	Examples of how to support this:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen with increased attention to sounds. • Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings. 	<p>Help children to develop their listening skills through a range of active listening activities. Notice 'how' children listen well, for example: listening whilst painting or drawing, or whilst moving.</p> <p>Play, share and perform a wide variety of music and songs from different cultures and historical periods.</p> <p>Play sound-matching games.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember and sing entire songs. • Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match'). • Sing the melodic shape (moving melody, such as up and down, down and up) of familiar songs. • Create their own songs, or improvise a song around one they know. 	<p>When teaching songs to children be aware of your own pitch (high/low). Children's voices are higher than adult voices. When supporting children to develop their singing voice use a limited pitch range. For example, 'Rain rain' uses a smaller pitch (high/low) range than many traditional nursery rhymes. Children's singing voices and their ability to control them is developing. Encourage them to use their 'singing' voice: when asked to sing loudly, children often shout.</p> <p>Sing slowly, so that children clearly hear the words and the melody of the song.</p> <p>Use songs with and without words – children may pitch-match more easily without words. Try using one-syllable sounds such as 'ba'.</p> <p>Clap or tap to the pulse of songs or music, and encourage children to do this.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas. 	<p>Offer children a wide range of different instruments, from a range of cultures. This might also include electronic keyboards and musical apps on tablets.</p> <p>Encourage children to experiment with different ways of playing instruments. Listen carefully to their music making and value it. Suggestion: record children's pieces, play the pieces back to the children and include them in your repertoire of music played in the setting.</p>