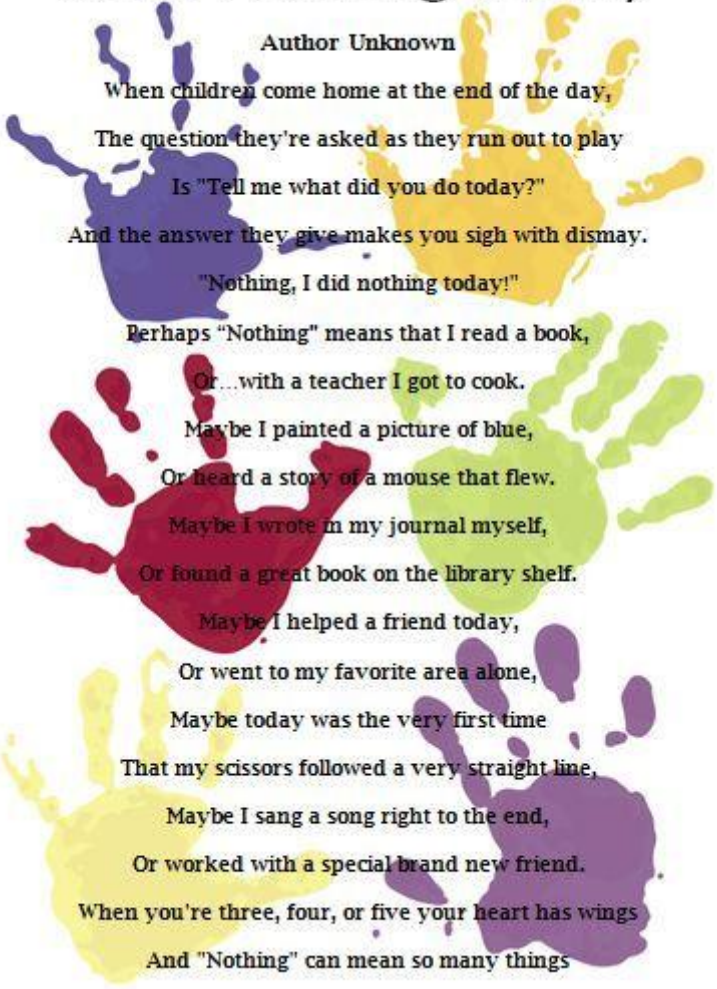


Early Years Foundation Stage.

I Did Nothing Today

Author Unknown



When children come home at the end of the day,
The question they're asked as they run out to play
Is "Tell me what did you do today?"
And the answer they give makes you sigh with dismay.
"Nothing, I did nothing today!"

Perhaps "Nothing" means that I read a book,
Or...with a teacher I got to cook.
Maybe I painted a picture of blue,
Or heard a story of a mouse that flew.
Maybe I wrote in my journal myself,
Or found a great book on the library shelf.
Maybe I helped a friend today,

Or went to my favorite area alone,
Maybe today was the very first time
That my scissors followed a very straight line,
Maybe I sang a song right to the end,
Or worked with a special brand new friend.
When you're three, four, or five your heart has wings
And "Nothing" can mean so many things

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum encourages children to learn through play. As a result Nursery and Reception children spend time both indoors and outdoors, exploring, investigating and working alongside their peers developing their understanding of others and the world. The role Nursery and Reception staff is to provide children with opportunities and stimuli which allow their natural curiosity and thirst for knowledge to be cultivated and extended in numerous ways.

Through careful observation, teachers begin to understand what the children are interested in and subsequently plan ways in which they can mould and shape the curriculum to teach and support every child.

Every child is unique and develops at their own pace and as a result the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is divided into age band expectations as well as in various subjects and areas of development.

Prime Areas:

Personal, Social and Emotional

- Making Relationships
- Self-confidence and self-awareness
- Managing feelings and behaviours

Children need to feel happy, comfortable and safe in school in order to be ready to learn. Children develop a positive sense of themselves and others. They make good relationships and develop respect for others. They learn how to manage their feelings and to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

Communication and Language

- Listening and Attention
- Speaking
- Understanding

A great importance is placed on talking and listening in both Nursery and Reception. The children are encouraged to share their news, talk about special events and in Reception, take part in regular 'Show and Tell'.

Children are given opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical Development

- Moving and Handling
- Health and Self-care

Both indoors and outdoors, children are given opportunities to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. The children are able to develop their gross motor skills as well as fine motor skills, such as holding a pencil and cutting. They are also helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Specific Areas:

Literacy

- Reading
- Writing

In Nursery, children are taught phonics (learning letter sounds) through a program called Read Write Inc. They are introduced to letter sounds in fun, interactive lessons. The children are then encouraged to use these sounds to begin to read very simple words. In Reception the children's phonic skills to developed further. They are introduced to more complex ways of representing sounds. Children are sent home with reading books and are encouraged to practise reading at home as well as discussing the stories and their understanding of what they have read. Children are encouraged to write. Writing 'tasks' vary from shopping lists, menus, party invitations, letters and stories. They are given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to stimulate their interest.

Mathematics

- Numbers
- Shapes, space & measure

The teaching of Mathematics is once again through the playing of games. Children are provided with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.

Understanding the World

- People and Communities
- The World
- Technology

Children are guided to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment. As part of this area of the curriculum, the children are encouraged to take part in celebrating various festivals such as Harvest, Diwali, Chinese New Year and Eid, as well as other important dates throughout the calendar.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Exploring and using media and materials
- Being Imaginative

Children explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. Opportunities are provided for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, dance, movement, role play, and design and technology