

The background of the slide is a soft-focus image of numerous autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and brown, appearing to fall against a light cream-colored background. The leaves are scattered across the entire frame, with some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Nursery Medium Term Plan Autumn 2 2025

Let's Celebrate!

Autumn 2 2024 – ‘Let’s celebrate’

This half term we will be learning about different celebrations such as Diwali, bonfire night, Cyril the squirrel’s birthday and Christmas. We will encourage the children to talk about people and times that are special to them. Through doing this we will support the children to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others. We will be using a range of beautiful picture books to engage the children and develop their vocabulary. We will be taking part in World Nursery Rhyme week from 11th -15th November and challenging the children to learn a rhyme each day!

Themes which will be planned weekly following the children’s needs and interests...

Diwali



light
diva lamp
special
firework
gift
mehndi
celebrate

Bonfire night



fire
hot
firework
bang
sparkler
bright

Remembrance Day



poppy
remember
sad
wreath
war

World Nursery Rhyme week



Jack and Jill
Hickory Dickory
Head, Shoulders..
Row your Boat
Wheels on the Bus

Cyril the Squirrel’s birthday



birthday
party
presents
age
celebration

Bedtime routines



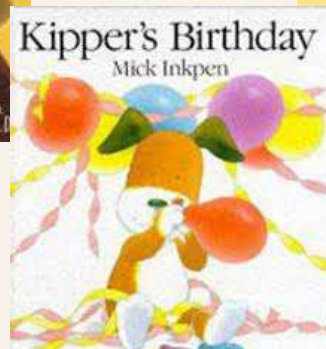
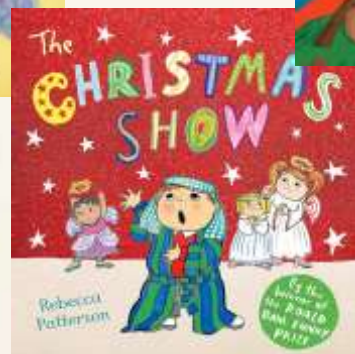
bedtime
story
brush
toothbrush
pyjamas
bed
tired

Christmas

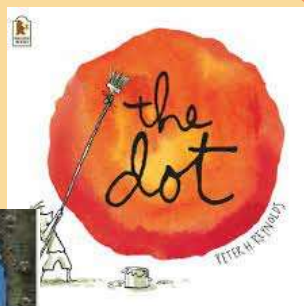


tree
decoration
present
angel
nativity

Books to help explore these themes...



Core Books



Communication and Language Skills Development...

What can I hear?

Who?

Linguistic and Cognitive skills

- Explore answering simple questions through play and story
- Begin to ask simple questions
- Understand simple requests or instructions and learn to respond appropriately (supported by gesture or signing)
- Develop vocabulary through exposure to good quality language through stories, songs and rhymes and through playful exploration of enhancements related to the book/theme
- Build rich vocabulary in context through purposeful interaction with others and modelling from staff through commentary within play
- Develop spoken language through adults reframing pupil spoken language and repeat reframing
- Have repeated encounters of vocabulary and language to ensure that new vocabulary enters their working vocabulary

How?

What can I smell?

Physical skills

- Demonstrate engagement and show listening behaviour by looking towards an adult and showing some eye contact – continue to work through the Active Listening Prompts to achieve this
- Respond to what they hear through action and talk
- Begin to reframe behaviour/language modelled by adults – adults to exploit opportunities to use new language in play and repeat in context to help make new words ‘stick’

What?

What can I see?

Social and Emotional skills

- Show an understanding of reciprocal language by engaging in ‘back and forth’ exchanges in communication with adults and peers – adults to model this through commentary and modelling

Where?

Communication and Language

Key knowledge

Listen to longer stories and talk about what happened

Understand simple who, what and where questions

Skills

Follow Nursery routines understanding what the next job to do is

Listen to and engage with longer stories

Respond to simple who, where and what questions

Initiate communication with peers and adults

Use a wider range of vocabulary based on nursery topics and play

Vocabulary

Who?	What?	Where?
belong	special	celebrate

Key Questions

Who else likes...?

Where does this belong?

What do you do at Christmas/birthday/bonfire night?

How do you feel when...?

What are you making?

What does this do?

What is our next job?



Phase 1 Phonics

Key knowledge

To tune in to different sounds (auditory discrimination)

Skills

Become more familiar with the language and sequence of nursery rhymes

Develop awareness of the sounds different instruments make

Listen and differentiate between different instrument sounds

Songs and rhymes

Twinkle Twinkle little star

Old Macdonald

Happy Birthday Song

Jingle Bells

Ten Little Angels

Key Questions

- What can you hear?
- Is it a quiet sound?
- Is it a loud sound?

Nursery Rhyme week
11-15th November

Nursery rhymes play an important part in early childhood; helping to develop vocabulary and language



Twinkle Twinkle



Old Macdonald



Happy Birthday



Jingle Bells



Ten Little Angels



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Key knowledge

- Understand and carry out nursery routines independently e.g. putting on their coat ready for garden time
- Build positive relationships with adults and children within the setting
- Understand why it is important to rest and sleep

Skills

- Talk about similarities and differences between themselves and others
- Engage in play with other children
- Recognise and share celebrations in their own families
- Manage basic hygiene such using the toilet and washing hands

Vocabulary

rest	sleep	celebrate
special	same	different

Key Questions

- What do you do to celebrate birthday, Christmas etc?
- What do you like/dislike?
- Who is special to you?
- What do you do when you are tired?
- What do you do at bedtime?



Special Events:
Fire in the Secret Garden
Nursery Rhyme week
Cyril's Birthday Party
Nursery Tableau
Christmas Party

Physical Development

Fine motor Skills

Thread beads onto a thread

Make meaningful marks using pencils, pens etc.

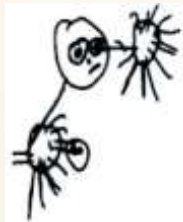
Develop a comfortable pencil grip

Make snips with scissors

Mark making progression in Nursery



Complete random scribbling



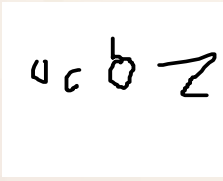
Draw pictures to represent an idea.



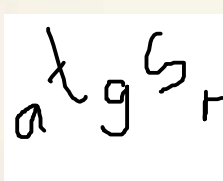
Complete drawings which mimics writing



Use symbols which represent letters



Makes marks to represent name



Form random letters with no meaning.



Represent initial sounds in a familiar word.

Vocabulary

line	circle	picture
scoot	pedal	jump

Key Questions

Who can hop, jump etc?

Can you change direction

Can you jump down?

Can you make lines/circles etc.

Gross motor Skills

Use and remember sequences and patterns in movement

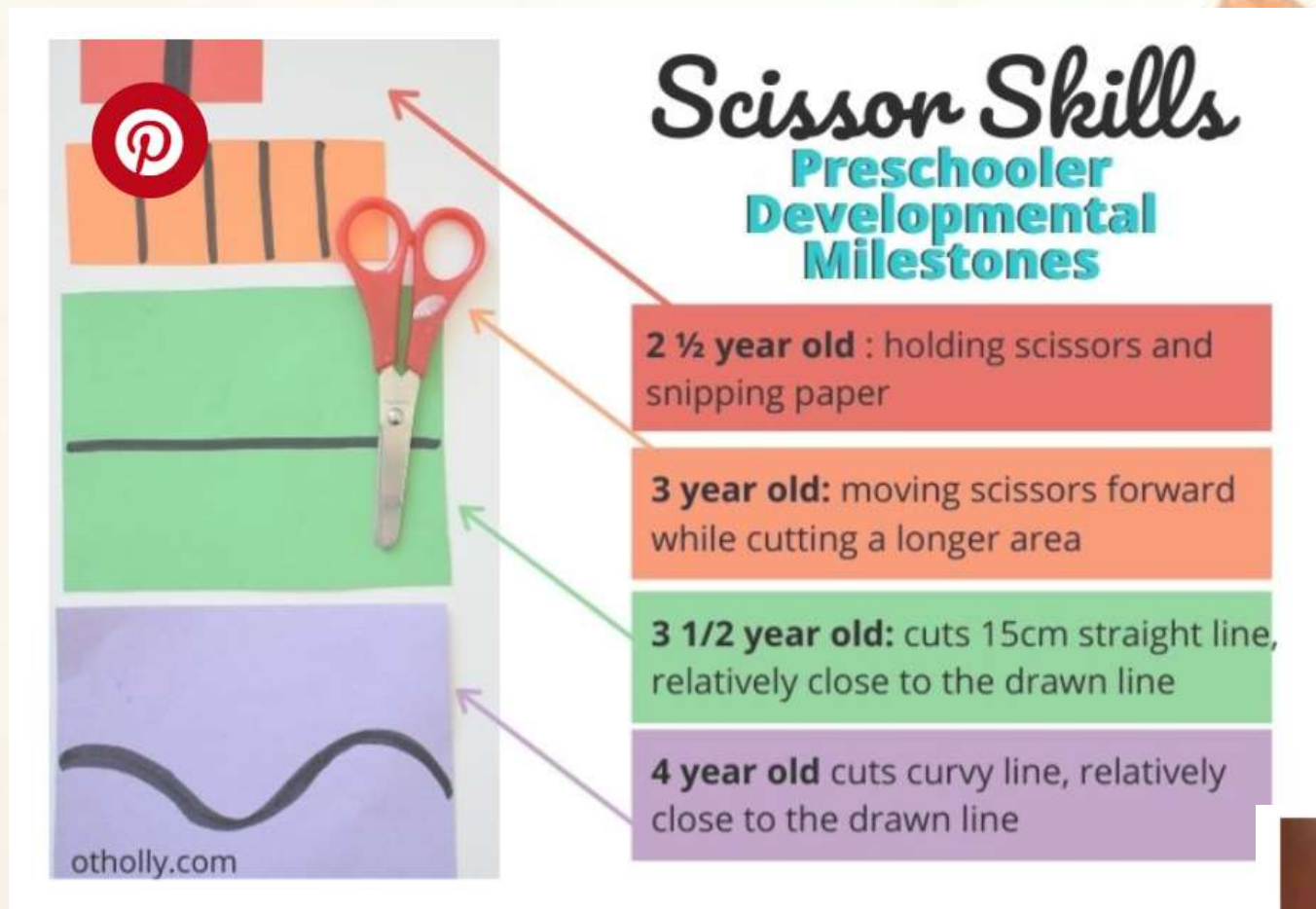
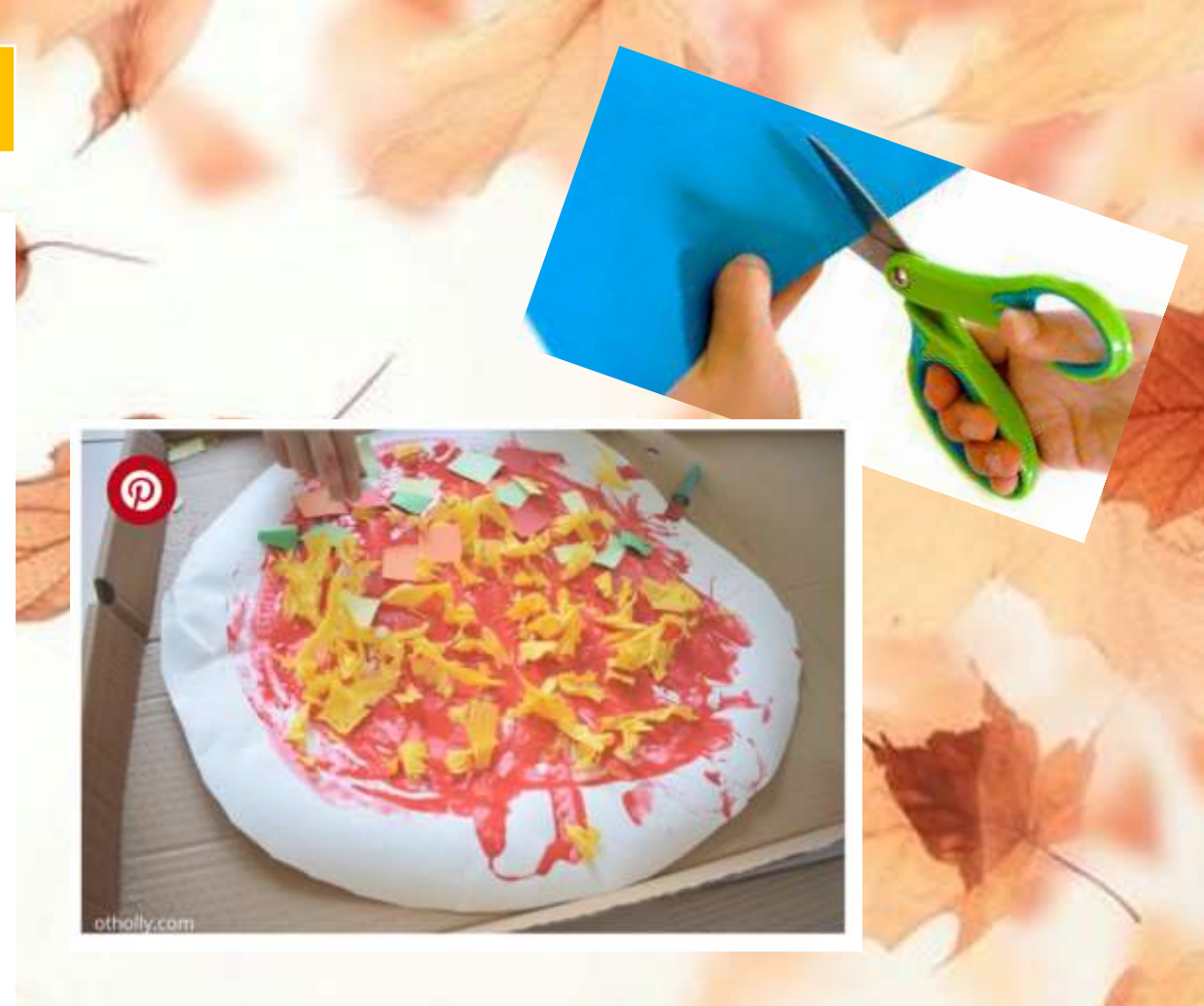
Balance along equipment

Develop large muscle movements e.g. making large scale marks

Crawl, jump, skip



Physical Development continued...

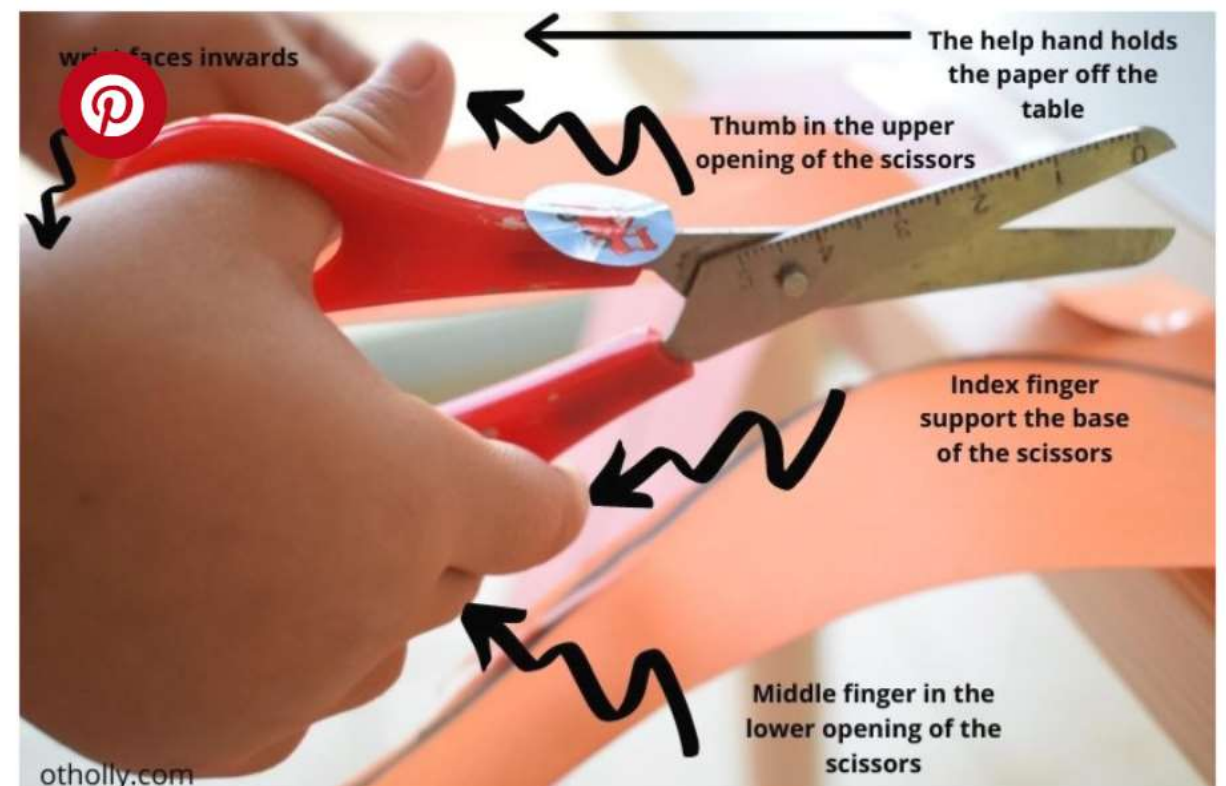


Developing scissor skills in Nursery:

Supervision: Encourage children to sit and reinforce basic safety rules.

Developmentally appropriate: Consider the type of activity each child is developmentally ready for depending on where they are within their development.

Repetition: Encourage children to engage use scissors several times per week to practise and refine key skills.



How to hold a pair of scissors