

Term: Autumn 1

Theme/Topic: *Marvellous Me* (All About Me, families, bodies, feelings, starting school)

Duration: 6–7 weeks

Key Areas of Learning & Focus Objectives

Area of learning	Nursery	Reception
PSED	Begin to separate from carers with support. - Start to build relationships with familiar adults and peers. - Share resources with some support. - Begin to talk about own likes/dislikes.	- Confidently separate from carers. - Develop friendships and learn to resolve conflicts with support. - Begin to manage emotions using strategies. - Talk about own strengths and interests.
Communication and language	- Listen to short stories with increasing attention. - Use single words and 2–3 word phrases to communicate needs. - Begin to join in with rhymes and songs.	- Listen attentively in a range of situations. - Use longer sentences to express ideas. - Retell simple events or personal experiences. - Begin to ask “who/what/where” questions.
Physical development	- Explore climbing, balancing, running, jumping. - Develop fine motor control through mark-making and using simple tools (crayons, playdough).	Fine motor skills – name writing, cutting, threading. Gross motor – climbing, balancing, ball skills.
Literacy	Listening to stories about families/school, mark-making, recognising name card.	Phase 2 phonics start, beginning to blend/segment, writing own name, labels for family pictures.
Maths	Counting songs, exploring shape sorters, matching colours.	White Rose Autumn 1 – numbers 0–3, comparing amounts, matching shapes, sorting & classifying
Understanding the world	Talking about home and family, noticing changes in environment, exploring classroom.	All About Me activities, discussing similarities/differences, exploring senses (taste, smell, sound).
EAD	Self-portraits, singing familiar songs, role play “home corner.”	Family portraits, name collages, role play doctors/school, introducing instruments and rhythm.

Weekly breakdown			
Week	Adult-led Focus	Child-led Possibilities	Key Texts/Resources
1	Settling routines, “All About Me” circle time	Exploring new areas, choosing favourite toys	<i>Starting School</i> – Janet & Allan Ahlberg
2	Self-portraits with mirrors	Dressing up in role play, drawing families	<i>So Much</i> – Trish Cooke
3	Talking about families, making family trees	Home corner play, looking at baby photos	<i>Peepo!</i> – Janet & Allan Ahlberg
4	Exploring senses: taste test, sound walk	Sensory trays, musical instruments	<i>My Five Senses</i> – Alike
5	Name writing, phonics Phase 2 intro	Writing names in sand, magnetic letters	<i>The Day You Begin</i> – Jacqueline Woodson
6	Celebrating achievements, making “I am special” books	Building with blocks, role play doctor’s surgery	<i>I Like Myself</i> – Karen Beaumont

Section	Ideas
Assessment	Nursery: separates from carer, says own name, joins circle time. Reception: recognises own name in print, joins phonics, follows routines independently.
Parent/Carer Involvement	“All About Me” bags from home, family photos, invite parents for settling sessions.
Books	<i>Starting School</i> (Ahlberg), <i>So Much</i> (Cooke), <i>Peepo!</i> (Ahlberg), <i>The Day You Begin</i> (Woodson), <i>I Like Myself</i> (Beaumont).
Songs/Rhymes	“If You’re Happy and You Know It”, “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes”, “Who’s Here Today?” welcome song.
Phonics	Nursery: Phase 1 listening games. Reception: Phase 2 sounds s, a, t, p, i, n – blending CVC words.
Maths	Nursery: counting songs (5 Little Ducks), sorting colours/shapes. Reception: White Rose Autumn 1 – 0–3, comparing groups, shape hunt.
Vocabulary	Family, friend, school, special, different, same, happy, sad, proud, senses, body.

Forest School & Cultural Capital	Autumn walk – collect leaves for self-portraits, listening walk, natural faces with sticks & stones.
---	--