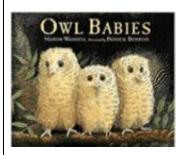
Steeple Claydon Pre-School Isolation Planning – Spring 2022

This learning is based on the story 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson.



I recommend you read the story together everyday, so your child becomes really familiar with the story. Then choose two or three activities to complete a day, depending on your circumstances. If you do not have a copy of Owl Babies at home, please follow this link to an interactive version of the story;

Read our online, interactive Owl Babies storybook | BookTrust

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

In the story 'Owl Babies' the babies' mother goes hunting to find some food to feed the babies. The babies take care of each other when they are scared. Families take care of each other. Talk about how your family take care of each other.

Discuss how the owl babies must have felt when they were on their own on the branch. Have you ever felt scared? What could the babies do to make themselves feel better? Why do you think Sarah suggested that all the owls sat together? Does it feel better when you have your family and friends round you?

Using a camera or mirror can you make faces to show the different emotions the owl babies felt during the story. E.g. scared when their mother had gone; happy when their mummy returns? What other emotions can you show?

The story Owl babies is about a family of owls. A mother owl and three babies; Sarah, Percy and Bill. Spend some time talking about who is in your family. You might want to look at some family photographs together. You could draw a picture of your family and have a go at writing their names.

Communication and Language

Owls are nocturnal animals which means they come out in the night and sleep in the day. Go into your garden in the evening (once it is dark) and see what you can hear. Are these sounds different to those you hear in the day time in your garden? Can you hear any nocturnal animals?

Owls are birds of prey, which means they hunt for their food. They move almost silently because of the soft feathers in their wings. Play a game with a family member, where one person closes their eyes and the other person has to move across the room as silently as a flying owl. If the person listening hears the 'owl' they point to where they think the owl is. Then swap over.

Using the following link;

Guess the Animal Sound. Have Fun Learning Animals. - YouTube play this guess the animal sound listening game. Which of the two animal is making the noise?

Learn the Key vocabulary from the story – at the bottom of this document. Learn to say each word and what each word means. Listen out for these words in the story.

Physical Development

Watch this video clip of a Barn Owl flying;
Barn Owls in flight - YouTube
Can you move like an owl? Try to move in time to the music on the video.

Make a play dough owl – following this recipe or your own if you have one; Playdough recipe | BBC Good Food.
Roll the dough into balls and then squash gently into an owl shape. Try pinching the dough to make feathers, (or add real feathers) then use play dough tools or a pencil or a ruler to sculpt a beak. Add googly eyes, buttons or beads, or whatever you have for the eyes.

The owl babies live in a hole in a tree – you probably live in a house. Using whatever materials you have available to you at home, for example construction sets, boxes and blankets, junk materials etc, create a model of your home. Can you make models of your family to put inside your house?

Owls move by flying –Make some paper aeroplanes and investigate how things fly.

Literacy		
Listen to the interactive version of		
the story;		
Read our online, interactive Owl		
Babies storybook BookTrust		
Select the second option; 'Read		
along with top tips.'		
Complete/discuss the top tip on		
each page.		
Using the puppets at the bottom of this document, or ask family members to take on the different character – retell/act out the story. If you use the puppets, you could put on a puppet show of the story.		
There are about 200 species of owl. Use non-fiction books and the internet to find out about different		

There are about 200 species of owl. Use non-fiction books and the internet to find out about different owls. What specie of owl do you think the owl babies and their mother were? Which is your favourite specie of owl?

Set up a small world version of the story, using small world and construction toys. Can you make the woods and the tree where the owls live? Use these toys to role play the story.

Mathematics

There are 3 owl babies in the story; using the puppets at the bottom of this document practise counting to 3. Are there any other stories with 3 characters in the family? Can you find and collect groups of three objects around your house, e.g. 3 spoons, 3 socks etc. Can you match the number 3 with these items and have a go at writing/painting/chalking the number 3?

Learn the counting rhyme; 'Five Wise Owls' the words are at the bottom of this document. Using the owl pictures, count how many owls there are at the start of the rhyme. After each verse take one owl away and count how many are left. You may wish to write the number to match each verse. How many owls are there at the end of the rhyme? What other counting rhymes to 5 do you know?

Play a positional language game; an adult gives an instruction to hide a toy owl (or another toy) around the garden. For example, "Hide the owl under the slide." Repeat using different positional language, e.g. on-top, infront, behind, next to etc.

Collect natural items for example; leaves, feathers, stones, twigs, sticks etc. Make repeating patterns using these, for example twig, stone, twig, stone. How many different patterns can you make?

Understanding the World

Owls have very good eye sight, so they can see far away. Stand outsider your house, or look through your window. What can you see that is really far away? It might be a building, a hill or water. Keep looking to see if you can see beyond that. You could draw a picture if what you can see.

Owls are nocturnal animals which means they come out in the night and sleep in the day. Can you think of any other nocturnal animals? Have you ever seen a nocturnal animal? Use non-fiction books and the internet to find out about other nocturnal animals. You could draw pictures of these or have a go at writing their names.

In the story, the hole the owls live in has twigs, leaves and feathers in it. Collect as many of these and other natural items you can find. Using these items and a shoe box, can you make a comfortable home for the owl babies.

Go bird watching in your garden – use the garden birds sighting checklist at the bottom of this document to help you identify what birds you have seen. Do this at different times of the day/night to see if you find different birds. If you have a set of binoculars in your house use these to help you get a closer look.

Expressive arts and design

Create a picture of the owl babies sitting on a branch, using brown paper for a branch, and using cotton wool balls attached to pegs and dipped in white paint to make the owl babies. Once dry cut out circles for their eyes and a triangle for their noses.

Make owl biscuits following this recipe (or your own if you have a favourite one)

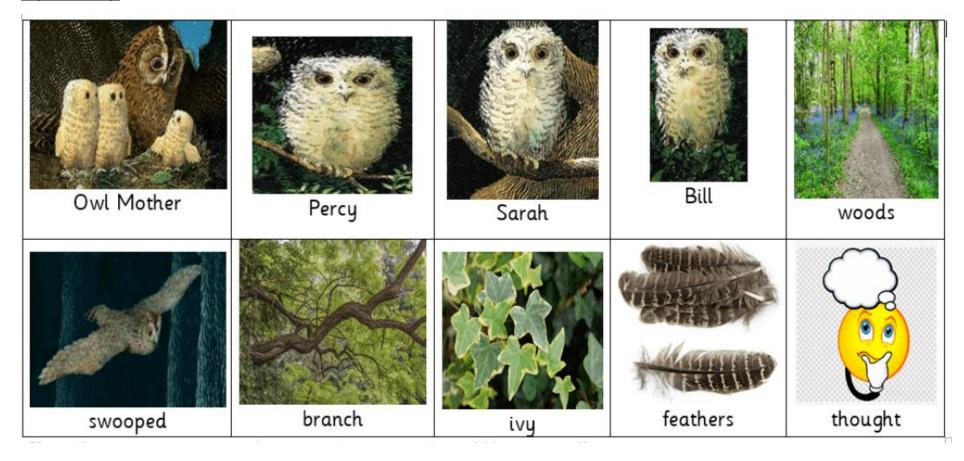
Snowy owl Christmas tree biscuits recipe

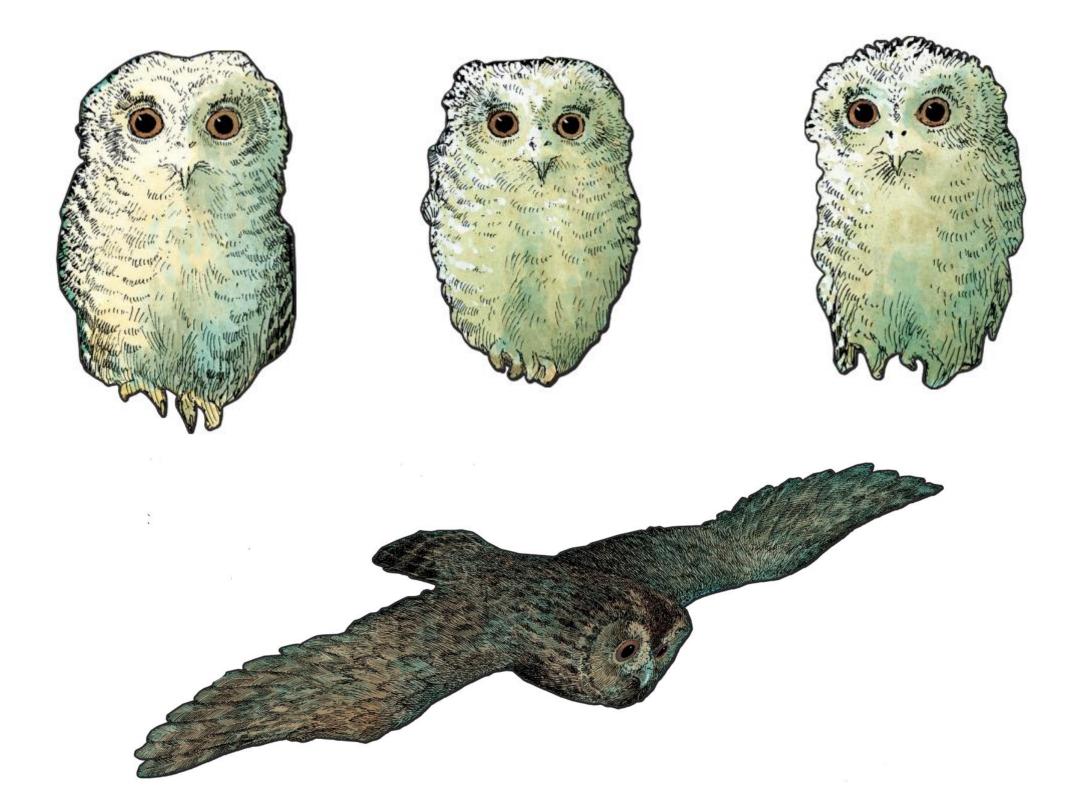
BBC Good Food

The owls live in a tree in the woods, think about what sounds you might hear in the woods, e.g. other woodland creatures, the trees rustling in the wind etc. Use body percussion, household items or any percussion instruments you may have to make the sound of the different noises you might hear in the woods. Which instrument would best suit the different sounds. Do you think the woods would sound different in the day to the night?

Create nests/dens for the owl babies with natural items you can find in the garden. If you can't find any use boxes and blankets and create a cosy nest or den for the owl babies inside your house

Key Vocabulary:





Bird	Sighted Have you seen this bird? Tick the box for yes or leave it blank for no.	Where? Where have you seen this bird?
Robin		
Magpie		
Sparrow		
Blackbird		
Blue tit		
Goldfinch		



Five Wise Owls

Five wise old owls Sat on a barn door, One flew away And then there were four.

Four wise old owls Sat down for tea, One fell in his cup And then there were three.



Three wise old owls Hooted on cue, One lost his voice And then there were two.

