



COOL CATERPILLARS

**ANNUAL PROJECT
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024**

Coordinators:

Philippa Waterhouse & Deborah Ascani

INTRODUCTION

'Shake, Rock 'n' Roll'

It is time to 'Shake, Rock 'n' Roll' with this year's exciting Early Years' project as the children explore sounds and investigate movement using their bodies!

COOL CATERPILLARS' PROJECT:

Let's 'Shake, Rock 'n' Roll' our bodies as the Cool Caterpillars explore the external parts of their bodies, learning the names of the different parts and focusing on how they move in a variety of ways through circle games, music, dancing, gym activities and garden time. The children will be encouraged to talk about what they look like, what physical traits they have in common and what makes them different and unique. They will also explore their senses developing, in particular, listening skills and sight, as they look at their surroundings and nature from various perspectives, from above and below.

Through stories, songs and music, the project will then move on to exploring the emotions they feel inside and how they express these through body language. Learning to recognise and giving a name to these sometimes intense feelings help children manage them and understand that they are not alone as they discover others around them who feel the same. Sharing these emotions bring the community together.

HOW THE PROJECT WILL BE CARRIED OUT

The classroom is often organized into different areas, linked to the Early Years didactical project with a variety of activities for the children to choose from and a range of materials both natural and recycled, for the children to use. These stimulating areas provide teachers with a perfect opportunity to observe and listen to the children, allowing them to create activities in response to their needs and interests as they change and develop through the year. Consequently, the Early Years project is carried out through a series of mini-projects which combine structured cross-curricular activities led by an adult and child-led activities. Both are aimed at developing the emotional and cognitive development of each child.

Play, in its many forms, is an important part of the project, as it is through play that children learn. They continue to develop social skills as they play in groups and develop their own identity in relation to others and the surrounding environment. Play allows them to discover, feel, make decisions and make choices, actions which they will then experiment with in real life. Through play, children begin to learn to respect the rules, take turns and other essential skills for their development.

Early Years' Google Classroom

Smiling has chosen to give each class its own virtual classroom where teachers post photos of activities, songs or games linked to class topics. This is ideal for parents who would like to take part in school life and reinforce learning at home. Families are encouraged to visit Google Classroom regularly and are welcome to post comments or photos of work done by the children at home.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Meetings with Teachers

These meetings are an ideal opportunity for families and school to work together and focus on the child and his/her learning journey. They are held at school or online and can be booked by emailing or telephoning the office. If online, parents will be given a code in order to join the video conference on 'Meet', accessed by their child's account which they are given when they enrol at Smiling.

Meeting Times:

Cecilia Masin & Erika Ongaro: Wednesdays 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Philippa Waterhouse & Deborah Ascani (Early Years Coordinators): Thursdays 2.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

What to bring:

- A soft bag with several complete changes of clothes to be kept at school. The school uniform needs to be included as well as: pairs of comfortable trousers (without buttons, laces, ties), t-shirts, pants, knickers and socks suitable for the season
- A change of shoes
- A toothbrush and toothpaste (with child's initials) in a clearly labelled, washable bag which can be hung up
- 1 packet of wet-wipes
- For children who sleep in the afternoon, a soft bag which contains a small flame-resistant

pillow (25cm x 40cm x 5cm) with a pillow case and a flame-resistant cover/blanket (75cm x 100cm) suitable for the season

- 1 A4 cardboard folder with elastic

PLEASE LABEL THE ABOVE ITEMS WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

Reminders:

- **School uniform is compulsory.** This consists of the school t-shirt or dress and the jumper, hooded top or tank top with the school logo. All pupils are expected to wear plain navy blue trousers/leggings or skirt and plain navy blue tights.
- Shoes without laces and trousers without buttons/fastenings to allow children to move freely during activities and to encourage autonomy
- Toys, soft toys and books from home are not allowed
- For safety reasons, bracelets, necklaces and jewelry in general are not allowed.

THE DAILY ROUTINE

Snack

At 9.45 a.m. and 3.45 p.m. a healthy snack is provided for the children. It is a time to sit together, taste new foods and develop language skills. Snack consists of fresh, seasonal fruit, crackers or biscuits and sometimes a cake. On Friday afternoons there is a special snack prepared by our cook. Please do not bring food into school.

Lunch

The children eat lunch at 11:50 a.m. in the lunchroom. The school cook prepares all meals and we encourage the children to try new foods. Lunch consists of a first course and a second course, followed by fresh fruit or a desert. The menu, which can be found on the school's website, provides a variety of well-balanced and healthy dishes which also includes regional cuisine. International festivals are also celebrated and children are encouraged to try dishes from around the world.

Brushing Teeth

Every day after lunch the children brush their teeth with adult supervision. On Fridays the toothbrush case is sent home to be checked and sanitised thoroughly and returned to school on Monday mornings.

Relaxation & Afternoon Nap

All the class takes part in a relaxation moment from 1.30 p.m. – 2 p.m. with their teachers in their classroom where they unwind together after a busy morning. The children who do not sleep are then taken through to another room where they play quiet games or go outdoors.

For the children who do sleep, they have a nap until 3.15 p.m. supervised by a teacher/assistant who puts on relaxing music. Each child has a nursery school bed and a bottom sheet that covers each one. These are both provided and washed by School. A pillow, a pillow case, a sheet and cover provided by the family will be sent home every Friday to be washed and should be returned on the following Monday. A dummy, if still used, needs to be brought in a clearly labelled carrying case. This will be given home each day to be sanitised.

OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

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| 8. a.m. – 9.30 a.m.* | Arrival and free-play in the classroom. * We advise that children arrive no later than 9.15 a.m. |
| 9.15 a.m. – 9.45 a.m. | Tidy-up & 'Carpet Time' (Good morning, Who is here today? What's the weather today?) |
| 9.45 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Toilet and snack |
| 10 a.m. - 11.20 a.m. | Didactic activities: SMART Board activities, P.E., music, annual project, free-play in the big or small garden |
| 11.20 a.m. – 11.35 a.m. | Toilet |
| 11.35 a.m. – 11.50 a.m. | 'Carpet Time' (songs, Story Time, conversation) |
| 11.50 a.m. – 12.10 p.m. | Lunch |
| 12.10 p.m. – 1 p.m. | Free-play in the garden or classroom |
| 12.45 p.m. | Children who go home after lunch can be collected- main door |
| 1.p.m.– 1.30 p.m. | Brushing teeth and toilet |
| 1.30 – 2 p.m. | Relaxation for everyone |
| 1.30 p.m.– 3.15 p.m. | Sleep Time Quiet play for those who does not sleep |
| 3.15 p.m. – 3.45 p.m. | Waking up & toilet |
| 3.45 p.m. – 4.20 p.m. | Snack & 'Carpet Time' (stories, songs and conversation) |
| 4.20 p.m. | Home time- main door |