Play & Learning Newsletter

28th September – 2nd October 2020

Upstairs, downstairs, bungalow, cottage, flat, terrace

Wonder words to use with your child:

Thank you so much to everyone for sending us through the photos of their houses to use this week with the children. They have been a great resource for providing opportunities to develop language and maths skills, whilst also prompting the children’s interest in each other’s lives and similarities and differences between them.

Homes and houses has been a focus for some of the play experiences both inside and out this week, with many children choosing to create houses from different resources and for different people, animals and cars. The play that has developed from these constructions has extended in to decorating the houses for birthday parties, making cakes to give to people in their houses and team efforts to build structures together.

We have spent time making houses from 2D shapes and thinking about which shapes are best for different jobs. The children are very interested in shapes and spend a long time at snack and lunch time independently matching the shapes they can see on their food to the shapes on the wall – developing their maths skills without even realising!

The rain and wind on Friday didn’t put us off having fun outside and we expelled lots of energy creating bubbly puddles and observing magic pictures. Super early science exploration and investigating skills being developed.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:***

Since we have returned to pre-school our focus has been on supporting the children’s listening skills and encouraging them to pay attention to the sounds, words and noises they hear around them. Lots of this has been developed using the power of songs – always a wonderful strategy for children. This week we have also learnt a new song about building a house, using props to act out parts of the song. The children have had to ‘turn on their listening ears’ to know which prop they needed to use in different parts of the song. This has been an excellent opportunity for encouraging them to focus their listening skills in a fun way.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Encourage your child’s awareness of shapes by playing a ‘Shape Hunt’ game whilst you are out and about, or even sat at the table having dinner. Take it in turns to choose a shape name and see if you can find something which is that shape in the area around you. For younger children who are not yet sure of shape names using food at mealtimes is a lovely way of developing their awareness of them. E.g. cut sandwiches into triangles at lunchtime, point out the circles of their cracker/cucumber etc. See if they can find something else in the are around them which is that shape too.