Play & Learning Newsletter

1st – 5th February 2021

Frogspawn, tadpoles, froglet, transform, amphibian

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we have used the children’s fascination with the frogspawn to inspire some of our play & learning experiences. The children have been very keen observers of the changes that have been happening to the frogspawn and this week there has been the addition of wiggly tails to our little friends which has led to lots of concentration in spotting when a tail is moving – which at the beginning of the week wasn’t very often so it meant we learnt the art of patience!

The story we have used to support their language development this week is called ‘The Teeny Weeny Tadpole’ which the children have enjoyed in movement sessions and through exploration of the lovely action words that the story uses. It has also prompted some super games in the children’s free play with lots of ‘big, bad fish’ being on the lookout for wriggly little tadpoles to eat.

There have been lots of mathematical skills being developed through different number games that were frog inspired. Jumping along lily pad number lines to catch flies has been perfect for prompting careful counting and working out how many dots they will need to roll on a dice in order to get to the end – great for early problem solving skills. We also had a froggie fly eating game where the children had to work out how many flies the frogs would have left if they ate certain amounts; the beginnings of understanding subtraction. This week the builder’s tray was filled with rice which provided an ideal place to hide frogs, placing them inside tubs and filling them with rice and then children guessing how many frogs their friends had hidden inside.

The Rock Pool area saw the return of a firm favourite – the Sand Machine! This device (painstakingly made by Louise last year) provides the children with lots of different funnels, shoots and openings to pour and filter sand down. They love exploring where the sand will land when they pour it down each hole.

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

 The letter sound ‘**a**’ has been introduced this week and we have been exploring objects in our sound box which begin with the sound, plus using some of the alphabet story books to find out other things that begin with the sound. Well done to all the home learning Flying Fish children who found objects beginning with this sound at home as well.

The Star Fish children have been singing songs which support their tongue muscles – with lots of sticking out tongues and cheek puffing! We promise we will share this song in a facebook post in the future as it is one that always makes them giggle!

Ideas to support your child at home:

Sing 5 little speckled frogs in the bath!

A great song to sing whilst your child is in the bath as they can make a big ‘splash’ in the water as each frog jumps off the log into the ‘pool’. Encourage them to tell you how many frogs are left and how many are now in the pool.

5 little speckled frogs,

Sat on a speckled log,

Eating a most delicious bug

Yum, yum.

1 jumped into the pool,

Where it was nice and cool,

Now there are just 4 speckled frogs,

Glug, glug.

![C:\Users\rebekah\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\M83TB7JQ\frog_jumping[1].png]()