Play & Learning Newsletter

2nd – 6th November 2020

Illuminated, carved, hollow, pumpkin

Wonder words to use with your child:

We decided to use the stimulus of pumpkins to inspire lots of our play and learning experiences this week, with a little dash of fireworks thrown in too! With Halloween being easily remembered by the children, they have been full of talk about the pumpkins they had at home, the Halloween trail on the tram and dressing up. This has helped encourage conversations between the children and comparing of each other lives.

We have had a spooky Potion Workshop where the children have enjoyed developing their physical and maths skills using jugs, pipettes, spoons and coloured water, lavender and dried herbs to create potions and spells. The adults have been turned into frogs, zombies, vampires, witches – to name but a few – and then more spells to turn us back into ourselves again! There has also been some lovely word play with rhymes whilst saying our magic spells – great for practicing their phonic skills.

Thank you so much for the donation of pumpkins – you guys always come to the rescue!! The children used them to practice control and coordination skills whilst hammering nails into them with real hammers. The concentration observed was amazing – especially when they realised how heavy the hammer was. Safety googles were worn and it prompted lots of talk about how we can keep ourselves safe. The children then used torches to explore the effect of light through the holes and we discovered that the best light was the torch on one of the grown ups mobile phones (not something that we would usually have out whilst the children are in the setting but one of the torches had a strong enough light!).

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



This week we have begun our focus on developing the children’s awareness of rhyme. We have played lots of games which have provided opportunities for them to develop a sense of what ‘rhyming’ means and recognising when words do rhyme. Silly soup is a favourite one and is played with a silly rhyme which always makes us giggle!

Rhyming is a tricky concept and often takes children a while to grasp what it means and then be able to recognise it. It is another ‘essential skill’ in the building of your child’s foundations for reading and spelling.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Making up rhymes to go with the names of people in your family is always a simple, fun way to encourage rhyming awareness in your child, e.g. Mummy, tummy, lummy. The children think it’s very funny to make up nonsense rhymes – particularly with grown up names! When you do this with your child, over exaggerate/emphasize the movements your mouth makes and encourage them to do the same. This will help your child’s mouth and tongue ‘get the feel’ of rhyming which in turn will reinforce their picking up of the skill.