Play & Learning Newsletter

5th – 7th January 2022

Same, different, similar, favourite

Wonder words to use with your child:

It has been so lovely to see all of your little ones faces again after the Christmas break. They have returned with enthusiasm and full of all they did during their holidays. A big thank you for the photos of their presents that you all sent in. The children have really enjoyed sharing these with their friends and they have provided a great stimulus for talking to each other, listening and asking questions. They have also had to explain how their toys/presents work and why they are their favourite – great for developing explaining skills. The photos have also been good to use to develop the children’s understanding of same/different/similar as they compare their presents to their friends.

The home corner areas have had the addition of empty biscuit and sweet tins (left over from our staff Christmases!). It’s been interesting to note how the addition of something so simple has inspired lots of different role play games, with the children making their own biscuits from playdough and other loose parts. We also have some pretend biscuits which have created lots of games, with pirates using them for their Christmas decorations and contents of their treasure chests and children using them to re-enact experiences from home 😊.

Pirate play has also been inspired by the addition of the large wooden blocks from outside into our top room. Everyday this week the children have built their own pirate ship and treasure island, and then created treasure maps, pirate hats and trumpets to talk to each other through, enhancing their play further. It’s been so lovely to observe their relationships at this stage of the year – they are really feeding off each other now with regards to ideas in games, demonstrating their listening and thinking skills plus their ability to get along and play collaboratively with others. Great to see!

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** The Flying Fish have used the Sound Box to find out about the sound ‘s’, exploring objects that begin with this sound and learning the action that goes with the sound. Recognising the actual letter is not important at this stage in their development, we only introduce it as an aside; the main focus and intention is to tune their ears into hearing the initial sound that a word begins with. This is a very tricky skill and takes LOTS of practice (months and months of it sometimes) so do not worry at all if your child struggles with it – they are in the process of acquiring the skill and it is very unusual if they can do it instantly!

The Starfish have spent time choosing and singing favourite nursery rhyme songs, filling in the missing words that the adults have left out. This half term we will be encouraging lots of active participation from the children when they are singing well known songs!

 **Out & About sessions:** No Out & Abouts this week due to the weather and the children settling back into the pre-school routine.

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| Ideas to support your child at home: Encourage your child to notice when things are the SAME or DIFFERENT in everyday life, e.g. colours of cars, shapes of biscuits etc. Very young children often need these concepts modelled to them and it is usually best to start by focusing on what is the same before talking about ‘different’. Older children can begin to think about these concepts in trickier ways, e.g. How are the orange and the carrot the same? How are they different? You can also talk about how things are ‘similar’, e.g. You have a red coat and I have a red coat. They are not exactly the same but they are similar.  |