Play & Learning Newsletter

5th – 8th January 2021

Favourite, different, similar, same

Wonder words to use with your child:

Well it’s been a rather unsettling start to the Spring term – for the staff at least! The children have settled back in ever so well and many of them are enjoying the experience of less children in the setting. It has been interesting to observe different friendships developing as there are less children to play with, it’s given some children a chance to play with people who they may not have chosen to before. Children have an amazing ability to just ‘get on with it’ and adapt – something us grown ups are trying hard to aspire to! 😊

We have used the children’s interest in talking about their experiences during the Christmas holidays to develop their thinking about how they might be the same/different to their friends. This has led nicely into thinking about what their ‘favourite’ things are and if their friends have favourites which are the same or different to themselves. The book ‘You Choose’ by Nick Sharratt and Pippa Goodhart has been a great prompt for encouraging discussions between the children where these words have been used. It’s a great book for encouraging talk and reasoning. If your child had a book voucher for xmas we would strongly encourage the purchasing of it!

The children have also enjoyed exploring frozen things with this icy weather. On Thursday Jaygo brought in some amazing icicles which provided a super opportunity for close observations and talk about how they are made. We have left little pots with water and tiny shells in in the hope that we will find them frozen in the morning!

We have also spent time voting for favourite books and songs, using the language of more/most/less/fewer to talk about why which song/book would be the chosen one read/sung. This is a great way of developing children’s understanding of how number can be used. Tally charts about favourite Christmas activities has also been a good use of children’s number skills – opening presents was a top favourite!

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

 The Flying Fish have been playing games with the **s** letter sound and have also had ‘**p**’ introduced to them. We are focusing on their ability to hear the sound at the beginning of words rather than just recognising the actual letter. If you are teaching your child letter sounds at home it’s always best to focus on the sound of the letter rather than the name as this is what they will need when learning to read and spell.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Children love tally charts and they are a great way of encouraging them to make marks (supporting early writing skills) and use their counting skills. An activity that they might like to do at home could be a colour hunt around the house. If you draw a chart with 4 different colours that they have to find on it, show them what to do when they spot a colour (draw a line in the correct box), and then after a set amount of time support them to count up how many lines were in each box. Talk about what the chart shows them – e.g. ‘the colour you found most of was red’, ‘You found less yellow things than red things’.