Play & Learning Newsletter

4th– 8th October 2021

Straw, sticks, bricks, hay bale, secure, stable, first, second, third.

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we have been huffing and puffing with the story of The Three Little Pigs – a great story for encouraging joining in with repeating phrases and for independent retelling. The children have loved using different resources to listen to and then jointly retell the story and, as yet, we haven’t used any books to do this – just props and oral story telling. The children have listened so attentively and many are now retelling it themselves in varying ways – something which has been wonderful to hear and has been super for developing their language skills. We have also been singing some fun songs linked to the story too – see this week’s facebook post for one of them!

The story has inspired other play too, with house building going on it different formats. We have had construction workers busy building homes from large wooden blocks, planning their houses out first with drawings and then working as a team to build their ideas. There was lots of concentration whilst they have been busy using the clipboards and pencils and it’s been great for encouraging children to make marks with intention. There has also been house building for pigs with playdough, sticks, hay and bricks. There have been some very creative ideas with some lovely reasoning about why certain things have been included.

The children have loved the addition of some hay bales to the playground this week. They have provided us with the opportunity to smell, feel and think about whether we would want to build a house out of hay or straw – or sleep in a bed made from it! What the children have enjoyed the most however, is climbing, balancing and jumping off them and experiencing the sensation of walking along an uneven surface. We have had all sorts of obstacle courses made from them and they have been a super resource for adding something a little different to the outside area. Thank you to Isambard’s parents for giving them to us.

Other highlights this week have included:

* Baby bathing and care play in a lavender smelling bubbly water tray,
* Digger and truck play in the indoor sand tray,
* Creative opportunities with shapes and glue,
* Apple tasting from a variety of rare apples from Jannah’s friend’s Cornish Apple Orchard – yum!

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** The Starfish have been developing their language skills through joining in with the repeating phrases from the story of the 3 Little Pigs – plus singing songs to encourage listening and attention skills. The song ‘Little Pig where are you?’ has been lots of fun and so good for getting the children to think about which finger they need to put up (which bizarrely is a skill which supports mathematical development too!).

The Flying Fish have been playing games where they have to listen for and copy different sounds which are made with their voices, plus listen out for specific words in familiar songs. Their listening skills are making great progress!

 **Out & About sessions:** Despite rather a lot of illness this week, we managed to get Out & About with the Flying Fish children on Tuesday and Friday morning. We all became Shape Detectives and searched for different shapes on our way to Greenfield Gardens, where we then played lots of physical games and enjoyed mark making with chalk on the paving stones.

Ideas to support your child at home: 

Be a shape detective! Whilst you are out and about with your child encourage your child to find shapes (that they are familiar with) in the environment, for example if you know that they can name a circle ask them to be a ‘shape detective’ for circles.

Drawing their attention to other shapes, or talking about the shapes you can see in things that they are interested in (e.g. wheels on a car, number plates, the shape of their food) is also a good way to gently encourage their awareness and recognition of this.