Play & Learning Newsletter

10th – 14th January 2022

Same, different, similar, favourite, more, less, fewer, cookies, share

Wonder words to use with your child:

After all the playing with empty biscuit boxes and pretend biscuits last week, we decide to use the rather old story of ‘The Doorbell rang’ by Pat Hutchins. None of the children had ever heard the story before – and they all loved it! It’s a very simple story but involves lots of mathematical thinking and problem solving which has been ideal for the stage of development that the Flying Fish children are at and for introducing concepts to the Starfish children. It’s also great for developing listening skills too as the children have to listen out for the words of ‘then the doorbell rang’ and make the relevant noise. You can imagine how much they loved doing that! We have spent lots of time sharing our cookies between different amounts of people and using our ‘subitising’ skills to help us do this efficiently.

Thank you so much for all of the cardboard boxes and contents of your recycling boxes this week! The children have used them in all sorts of creative ways – from creating their own models (they have such amazing ideas!) to using the resources in their games to add to the action or as props. So much masking tape has been used too – we are off to Poundland at the weekend to purchase some more! Using all this tape has been great for developing children’s finger muscles plus enabling them to be independent in their creation projects.

This week we introduced ‘Baking Buddies’ – an activity which we use to do frequently pre-covid and that we felt the current children would really benefit from and enjoy. Every week a few children get to bake goodies for the pre-school crew who are in that day. The idea behind it is that the children feel good about doing a kind deed for their friends – and that everyone else appreciates the kind deed that they have done. When we ran this activity previously we noticed how the children grew in self confidence and fostered a sense of appreciation and cheer among the children.

Finally – but by no means least! – on Thursday we had 6 little visitors to the pre-school garden. Freddie’s Mum ad Dad brought 6 of their one week old lambs for us to feed and pet. Very exciting and so lovely to see how the children interacted with them. We learnt about how they would change colour as they get older and why some of the lambs needed to be bottle fed. A huge thank you to Brandon and Tracey for doing this!

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** The Flying Fish have continued to focus on the ‘s’ sound, working out which items in the sound box had been put in to trick them. They have also been thinking about the initial letter sound of their names and animals which begin with the same sound – amazingly we were able to come up with at least one animal for every letter of the alphabet!

Describing and choosing different types of (pretend) biscuits has been the stimulus for supporting the Starfish children’s language skills. They have also been singing a biscuit song, listening in to the description of which biscuit to choose.

 **Out & About sessions:** Due to staff shortages and garden visits for new children, we were only able to get Out & About on Monday for a trip to the little beach where we watched the waves crash over the harbour gate and some very brave cold water swimmers splash in the sea. We also collected pebble cookies to share out among us, providing a great opportunity to practice our number skills.

|  |
| --- |
| Ideas to support your child at home: *This week the Baking Buddies made Apple Cookies – a very easy recipe which young children can do almost independently, plus they contain no sugar! Taking part in cooking supports so many skills for young children – listening and following instructions, maths, science, physical and learning about food. Plus it’s always something that they are very motivated to do! Here’s the apple cookie recipe if your child fancies making them at home with you:**150g plain flour, 75g margarine, 1 eating apple, 1 egg yolk*1. *Rub the butter and flour together with your fingers until you have breadcrumbs.*
2. *Peel the apple and cut into tiny pieces, Add this and the egg yolk to the breadcrumbs and mix into a dough.*
3. *Chill in the fridge for an hour.*
4. *Roll out the dough and cut with a shape cutter. Bake in the oven for 20 – 25 mins at 180c.*
 |