Play & Learning Newsletter

15th – 19th April 2024

**Boat, outing, oars, row, baled, crew, dock, moozles**

Wonder words to use with your child:

A lovely start to the summer term as we welcomed the children back from their easter hols. They have been full of talk about what they did and where they went, plus the chocolate they ate 😊. Talking to each other about things like this really helps develop their conversation skills and we have encouraged them to tell friends and their peers about their experiences.

This week we have used ‘boats’ as a stimulus for problem solving and storytelling. The Flying Fish have used the story of ‘Jack and The Flum Flum Tree’ by Julia Donaldson. A great story for encouraging problem solving and talking in depth about the events and feelings within the story. The Starfish have used the story ‘Mr Gumpy’s Outing’ by John Burningham as a basis for storytelling and some mathematical thinking. We have also had the big book of ‘Boats’ by Flora McDonnellm for the children to look at the pictures and talk about what they see. This has been excellent for encouraging talk as the pictures are so busy and full of boats of all different varieties – there has been something for everyone!

The creative area has been FULL of cardboard boxes and other small containers which the children have utilised as boats/models, decorating them with chalks, pens and collage material. It’s been lovely to see children who may not always be so keen to make marks happily decorating their boats/models and, in the process, giving their finger and hand muscles a workout.

There has been LOTS of water play this week (we apologise for the wet clothes!) with lots of exploration of moving boats down ramps and from one tray to another. Using their new water tray and having fun.

The top room has been a sensory experience with coloured rice and frogs to introduce the life cycle of a frog and learn about frogs from different parts of the world. We were very excited to have been given some tadpoles to observe and this sparked lots of conversations. We will return them to their pond soon.

***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *This week we have been doing lots of rhyming activities and rhyming songs with our cross the river game, silly soup activity and rhyming bingo. The children are most certainly rhyming experts now haha.*



 **Out & About sessions:**

We have been very excited this week to visit our allotment for the very first time. We have had three visits this week planting, potato’s, peas and red onions. The children have been fascinated by all the bugs that share the garden with us and it’s been a great opportunity to promote caring for our environment and created a wonder in growing food for ourselves.

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| Ideas to support your child at home:  Next week we are going to be thinking about ‘journeys’. If you could use this word (over the weekend) when you make a journey somewhere it will help your child to begin to understand what the word means and also types of places that they make journeys to. If your child has been on holiday (and remembers it), talk to them about how they got there and who else came on the journey with them. It would also be good if you talk about if it was a long or short journey.  Have a lovely weekend – and if you are making a journey to somewhere we hope it is a smooth one! 😊 |
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