Play & Learning Newsletter

12th October – 16th October 2020

Heavy load, trailer, combine harvester, harvest

Wonder words to use with your child:

Tractors and animals are firm favourites with many of the pre-school crew so this week we harnessed this interest to continue to support language skills, plus counting ones too. The song book ‘Driving My Tractor’ by Jan Dobbins and David Sim has been the inspiration behind many of the play experiences and our group time sessions too. The children have very quickly picked up the words to the song and many have been heard singing it during their play. We have put a link to the Youtube recording of it on the closed facebook page so that you can share it with your child and they can teach you the words (this is always a lovely way of building confidence).

We have all been practising our counting skills as we counted the correct number of animals into the trailer, using props to make this a moveable counting activity. Being able to move items as they count helps children develop the skill of ‘one to one correspondence’ – saying one number word for each item, something which isn’t natural to little ones and needs to be modelled for them to learn how to do it.

Lots of the children have made their own little tractors in a shape activity where they had to think about which shapes would be the best for certain jobs on the tractor. They have proved the perfect props for singing the ‘Bumping up and down on a . . . tractor’ (colour dependent).

There has been weighing and sorting of real vegetables in our Farm Shop role play area, with children using the words ‘Shopkeeper’ and ‘customer’ as they asked for a certain number of different vegetables and paid for their goods. Our large scales have been used to explore heavy/light and the till has been a big draw – little people just love buttons and a draw to open and shut!

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

 This week we have sung lots of different farm animal songs focusing on rhythm - fostering an awareness of the ‘beat’ of words. We have also begun to encourage the children’s awareness of how words are built of different parts (ie syllables) by playing games where we clap out their names emphasising the syllables as we say them. This is a great way of not only encouraging them to ‘tune in’ to the sounds in words but can also help with their articulation of a word, e.g. ambulance becomes a little easier to say when you break it into it’s syllables am-bu-lance.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Encourage your child to tune into the different parts of a word by playing games at home where you sing the syllables of the names of the different people/pets in your family. If you emphasize the syllables in a ‘sing song’ way your child is more likely to both listen to what you are saying and join in themselves.