Play & Learning Newsletter

16-20th June 2025

**Emergency, vehicles, paramedic, police officer, firefighter, coastguard**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we have been thinking about the different jobs that people do and, in particular, the emergency services jobs and roles. We have a lot of children who love to role play firefighters, police officers and doctors/nurses so we thought we would harness this interest to support their learning and development. We have had a doctors which has cared for people and animals, a fire station and police station outside and a builders yard. – so lots and lots of focused role play, plus some lovely mark making opportunities through the use of different forms and records that these jobs require.

The Flying Fish have learnt that Firefighters have to work as a team when they put a fire out/rescue someone and have develop their own ‘team building skills’ by playing games where encouragement and praise for their teammates have been part of the activity. This has been lovely to see and hear and is a great attitude to develop in order to support their relationships between themselves and their peers.

We have also had lots of activities promoting strengthening muscles in the fingers and hands and fine motor skills - all essential for handwriting later on. The children have really loved the spray paint bottles in the creative area and although they found them hard to squeeze at the beginning of the week, persistence and perseverance paid off as they found the best ways to hold and manipulate them make them spay effectively.

Another new medium that the children have explored this week has been clay – a rather messy but utterly delightful experience of squishing, sliding and squeezing this wet, malleable resource. Not everyone was keen to have a go but those that did spent long periods of time exploring it – very calming and great for strengthening finger and hand muscles. The addition of natural materials has helped them explore it in many different ways. Lots of sculptures were created along with a giant hedgehog that they designed as a small group.

***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** This week the Starfish children have continued to develop their rhyming awareness through listening to the rhyming emergency stories and songs. They have also been discussing different occupations by pulling something from the bag and working out who helps us in that area. i.e toothbrush, police car,



The Flying Fish have been consolidating their rhyming and syllable skills with different games and stories and an activity where they had to match the rhyming pictures. They sorted foods into healthy and un-healthy piles after clapping out its syllables i.e cu-cum-ber. They had to sort lots of objects into the correct hoop with rhyming words.

**Out & About sessions:**

We had a lovely visit to Harbour House where the children and residence worked together playing farm bingo.

On Tuesday we went down to our allotment to water all our vegetables. They very much enjoyed this session and they managed to spot lots of insects and bugs that share the allotment with us. We also harvested 20 broad bean pods where we used our 5 frames to count them out along with harvesting lots of herbs and swiss chard that the children got to take home to share with their families.

On Wednesday we made our way down to the coast guard hut where they told us all about being a coast guard. The children got to look at and try lots of equipment and even sit in the coast guards car. We found out so much interesting information and the children asked some very good questions in response to what they had seen and been told. The 13 coastguards who all work full time are on call 24/7 to help us all in an emergency! What amazing people indeed.

On Thursday Hayley the lovely lollipop lady from Portreath primary school came to visit and tell the children how she will help them cross the road safely in September and discuss how to keep safe near the roads. She brought colouring activities and stickers for them and the children all really enjoyed meeting her.

On Friday we had a visit from the community police team, PC Becky brought a bag of jackets and hats for the children to try on and look at. They talked about their job and how they help people. They told the children what to do if they ever get lost and then most exciting of all they were allowed to look and get inside the police van and even try the siren.

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| Ideas to support your child at home:  Developing your child’s awareness of ‘teamwork’ is a good way to encourage their social skills. Working as part of a team involves being aware of others and recognising the good feeling that you get from achieving a goal in collaboration with others. You can help your child develop this awareness by including them in tasks that you do with them, or that the whole family does together – e.g. tidying up the lounge together, putting all the washing away etc. Make a big deal about working on the task together and high five each other when you finish, saying “Great teamwork!”. The children love doing this at pre-school and definitely feel a sense of pride in “teamwork” moments! |
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Provide some opportunities for small world play in the bath at bath time. Add boats (or bowls/trays if your child doesn’t have any boats), little people, plastic animals etc. Join in with their play, taking on the role of one of the little people or animals, e.g. pretending you’ve fallen in the water and need rescuing. Playing games like this with your child provides great opportunities to introduce new language (e.g. rescue, sinking, emergency) plus model creating stories in its earliest form. They may even have some great ideas on what to do in an emergency after visiting the coast guard hut.