Play & Learning Newsletter

13th – 17th June 2022

**Tent, campsite, sleeping bag, pitch, mallet, tent pegs, campfire.**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we have continued with our focus on camping with the addition of the tent outside which the children have loved using in this warmer weather, particularly sharing books with friends and having chats. We have used the story ‘When we go camping’ by Sally Sutton to develop comprehension and noticing skills and provide a stimulus for talking about what we know about camping and linking it to real life experiences.

The theme of camping has been excellent for developing maths skills as well, with us thinking about different ‘man’ tents (e.g. 2 man, 6 man) – which the children have found very interesting. They have thought about who they would want to go camping with and what size tent that will mean that they need – great mathematical problem solving. The Flying Fish have been drawing these problems which has required concentration and remembering how many they need to draw and when to stop! This is quite tricky for 3 and 4 year olds and it’s been great to see the levels of concentration whilst they were doing it (plus lots of finger use whilst working out how many more people/animals they needed to draw). We have also been singing number songs about tents and campers using 5 frames and 10 frames. These are great ways of supporting children’s understanding of the different ways of making 5 and 10 and are proving to work really well with the Flying Fish.

Other highlights this week have been lots of water and sand fun outside with a fantastic swamp being created by a group of children by mixing the two elements together! We have also had exploring of light, dark and shadows on the overhead projector with numbers and some beautiful glass pebbles. The children have also been using the OHP to create puppet shows, organising this themselves and narrating the story. This has been wonderful to watch them do (from a far – the minute we get involved they stop!) and demonstrates what young children are capable of doing independently! Gloopy glue paint has been explored and used by the children at the creating table which has created some lovely pictures that are now on display. And an ice cream parlour and a pizza café were available with playdough and in the sand tray! A very busy week!

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

*Matching rhyming objects has been the focus for the Starfish this week, which has taken their understanding of rhyming to the next stage.*

*The Flying Fish have been playing games which have used their initial letter sounds and matching words which start with the same sound and also focusing on their names and writing letters from their names.*

 **Out & About sessions:**

On Monday the Flying Fish visited Maple Class at Portreath School, both the inside and the outside areas. Mrs Forsdick and her class were out on a visit to the zoo so we had the space all to ourselves! The children loved looking at the different things in the classroom, noticing toys and resources and thinking about what they would like to play with when we visit next Thursday afternoon. The outside area was a real hit and we spent the whole morning enjoying playing on and exploring all the exciting things it had to offer.

On Thursday we went on an adventure in the woods (Illogan) where we discovered a climbing wall which we all managed to climb up to get to the top part of the woods. There was lots of team building with children encouraging each other – it was hard work!

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| Ideas to support your child at home: Lots of the children have enjoyed using the water outside this week and using paintbrushes with buckets of water has been a very popular activity. This is great for developing hand and finger muscles required for being able to write successfully later in life, plus providing an opportunity for mark making and talking about what they are doing. Using proper decorating paint brushes makes it even more exciting! You can pick these up in places like Poundland for very cheap prices. A great activity for keeping your little ones busy in the garden whilst also developing some essential skills.  |
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