Play & Learning Newsletter

15th – 18th March 2021

Hatch, chicks, secure, lined, twigs, beak, tail feathers, weave

Wonder words to use with your child:

The children (and staff) have been avidly watching the antics of our annual House Sparrow visitors and this interest has inspired this week’s focus of nesting birds. The children began the week by enjoying the story of ‘Peely Wally’ – a bird who has a rolling egg problem. The children were challenged to create nests which would stop Peely wally’s egg from rolling away – a task met with lots of enthusiasm! We have had nests being made from straw, sticks, playdough, large boxes and wooden blocks. Some nests could only fit one egg in, others could fit several children in!

Large boxes and wooden blocks in the role play area inspired children to create nests which would fit themselves and their friends in and we have observed some lovely collaborative play with groups of children. This type of play is always great to observe and really helps the children develop their social skills and relationships with their peers, particularly in the run up to school. The sticks and crates/tyres etc have also provide great resources for encouraging this outside too.

We have spent our group time sessions developing our language skills through some ‘awe and wonder’ activities where we found out about the nests of other animals (and which we would most like to have a sleep in), which other animals lay eggs and guessing which birds lay which eggs. The children have loved finding out information about these topics and have been asking some wonderful, thoughtful questions.

Other highlights this week have been favourite bird surveys, birds in nests number songs, mark making with feather (great for building up finger muscle strength), number games involving eggs in nests and feeding worms to chicks, plus lots of fun water play outside.

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

This week the Flying Fish have been listening out for the letter sound ‘t’ and practising writing it (down the tower, across the tower). They have also been playing ‘I spy’ games with the letters we have focused on over the last few weeks. This is a great game for encouraging children to focus in on the initial sound of a word – which is a tricky skill to master. Practice makes perfect!

The Starfish have been playing games which encourage them to explain what we use different things which has supported both their language development and linking of information.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Boxes – never, ever get rid of a large box without offering it to your child for a week. Boxes really are one of the best resources you can give a child to encourage their imagination, construction and self confidence skills. A box can be anything they want it to be and giving them the space and time to explore what they want it to be, deciding how to create that and then playing in it provides them with the opportuntiy to take control in their decision making which will boost their self confidence.

If you ever have any boxes going spare we will ALWAYS take them!