Play & Learning Newsletter

15th – 19th November 2021

**Toothbrush, toothpaste, decay, rot, dentist, cavities**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week has been all about nursery rhymes – to run in line with World Nursery Rhyme week which take place every year in November. This is an initiative which aims to highlight the importance and benefits of young children learning nursery rhymes. Research has proven that if a child knows 8 nursery rhymes off by heart by the time they are 4 years old then they are usually among the best readers and spellers in their class by the time they are 8 years old. Such a simple thing to do for parents and educators alike but so beneficial!

Every year there are 5 nursery rhymes chosen to focus on and this year it was: Incy, Wincy Spider, Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Wind the Bobbin up, Down in the Jungle and Sleeping bunnies – all firm favourites with the children! We have linked the play and learning opportunities to these rhymes and the children have enjoyed making playdough spiders, and painty string spiders webs and using the projectors to watch their shadows whilst moving to Sleeping Bunnies and Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.

We have also used the song ‘Down in the Jungle’ to talk about teeth cleaning – adapting it to jungle animals who are brushing their teeth instead of washing their clothes. Good teeth cleaning habits are important to install in children whilst they are young so that they are set up for understanding the importance of this through life and it becoming a normal part of their routine. The children have also enjoyed learning our ‘Brush your teeth’ song which reminds them of the importance of brushing teeth TWICE a day (we are hoping to put a video of this on facebook so you can sing it at home too!).

We have had lots of teeth cleaning of the jungle animals in the water tray, making of snuggly beds in the home corner and playing with some great dentist kits (from Aldi!) to talk to the children about the experience of going to the dentist.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** Rhyming has obviously been the name of the game this week as well with lots of singing and play with words around the nursery rhymes that we are focusing on. The Flying Fish children’s ears are becoming really good at noticing subtle differences in words whilst rhyming which is one of the skills that they need to be able to use phonic knowledge later on at school when reading and spelling.

The Starfish have loved the nursery rhyme focus and are becoming more confident in their renditions of them. 😊

 **Out & About sessions:** This week the Flying Fish children have visited the little beach to play subitising games with treasure that they found on the beach. We had baking trays for throwing the treasure on to (which made some great sounds) and then we talked about what we could see. The children are beginning to notice things like, “I see one and one and one – that’s 3”, or “I see four – I don’t need to count them”. Very promising skills that are being developed!

Ideas to support your child at home:

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| Watch out for our video of the ‘Brush your teeth’ song on our facebook page and sing it with your children to encourage and remind them of the importance of brushing their teeth twice a day. All of the children should have now received their cleaning teeth charts so please support them in doing this over the next few weeks so that they can bring them back for a prize! You should be cleaning your child’s teeth for them at this age to ensure that they are being cleaned properly. By all means allow them to have a go by themselves but then take over. If your child isn’t keen for you to brush them then let us know as we can have a chat about the importance of letting parents do it!  |