Play & Learning Newsletter

19th-23rd February 2024

**Pancakes, mix, whisk, ingredients, sprinkle, measure, toppings, frying pan**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we have made the most of one of our favourite days of the year – Pancake Day! It is always a day that little children hold dear and provokes lots of talk about favourite toppings, how they get made and parental cooking antics whilst making them😊! The baking buddies worked as a team to make the batter for them and then took in in turns to watch me cook them – and flip them! We then all sat down to a Pancake Party and enjoyed a choice of banana, raspberries or lemon (or all 3!) on them. Very happy children! There has been lots of different shaped pancake making with the playdough in the home corner along with frying pans

We always love to incorporate a story into our week’s learning and this week we used The Runaway Pancake as a perfect opportunity for oral storytelling using props. The children have been retelling it themselves using animal and pancake props and have even created their own versions using their little photo versions of themselves which they have loved doing.

The Starfish have been practising their number skills whilst singing the 5 Crispy Pancakes song, developing their finger muscle strength whilst representing numbers with their fingers. This has been a good activity for developing their subitising skills as well. They have also enjoyed the water tray with babies, sponges, toothbrushes, pipetts and towels to dry them also providing lots of opportunities to strengthen finger muscles.

Flipping pancakes is always a fun challenge! It is also very good for developing the children’s shoulder and wrist strength which are essential for being able to eventually hold a pen. The children have had the extra challenge of having to walk along a plank /line whilst doing it – requiring lots of concentration and co-ordination!

Other highlights this week have included lots of water play in the Rock Pool Area (the pipettes have been a very favoured item to explore the use of), creative area has seen lots of pancake decorating and lots of colour mixing in the rain with chalks.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have been introduced to the letter sound ‘’s’, ‘p’, ‘t’ and ‘a’ and we have been further practicing these sound again this week. We have played eye spy with items on a tray starting this either ‘a’ or ‘t’ or ‘s’ or ‘p’. We have played the hoop game where they had to listen carefully and sort objects according to their sounds.*

We also began to Practice the anticlockwise movement (as in writing a c), starting with doing it in the air very large, to then getting smaller and smaller, and then doing it with large movements on trays with shaving form or paint and their fingers. This can be done in sand or on white boards or even on the beach or woods with a stick.

*The 5 Crispy pancake song has supported the Starfish’s listening skills as well as the story* pancakes, Pancakes by Eric Carle – We Asked ‘What do you see?’ on each page to encourage naming of things that they see and pointing to it.

 **Out & About sessions:**

On Thursday we managed an Out & About to the Little beach with all the Flying Fish children who were attending that morning – 11 in total! It is a testament to how sensible the children are that we could trust them in an outing with 11 of them – their sense of road safety and awareness of what is around them has developed so well over these past few months. We had lots of fun engaging in activities which supported our gross and fine motor skills with a gigantic elastic band, the parachute and paintbrushes.

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| Ideas to support your child at home: Have a go at making up a story with your child where you provide the ‘boring’ bits and they come up with the exciting bits. E.g Once upon a time there was a (they decide what there was, e.g. animal, character, object) called (they come up with name) who lived in (they decide what they live in). One day they got up and decided to eat (they decide) for breakfast. Etc. This helps them to come up with their own ideas but in way which is less overwhelming then you saying – tell me a story. The very young Starfish children may need you to model the story or given them a choice of two things for each time that you are asking them for their ideas. This will make it easier for them to choose what to say. (We will be focusing on another popular story next week) |
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