Play & Learning Newsletter

16th – 20th May 2022

**Germinate, seedling, flower head, stalk,**

Wonder words to use with your child:

Sunflower growing has continued this week with us avidly watching our sunflowers for signs of growth. Most have started growing now and the Flying Fish have begun to plot their growth on our large calendar, supporting their beginnings of understanding time. We also all spent time working out where different types of fruit hide their seeds and had lots of fun exploring this whilst also having a taste of the fruit as we did – pomegranate fruit was a surprising hit!

Flowers have also inspired our creative experiences with us looking at Vincent Van Gogh’s Sunflower’s picture. The children decided that some of the flowers were Teddy Bear ones and Giant ones (so lovely that they have absorbed this information about sunflowers – little one’s brains are amazing!) and that Vincent had grown them himself. Using this picture as a stimulus we then spent time looking at a beautiful pot of Dahlias and talked about what we noticed before becoming artists and painting our own pictures of the dahlias. The pictures we produced will be on display in our gallery at pre-school.

The Starfish children have continued to develop their counting skills with The Seed Song and also explored size with the lovely book ‘Titch’. However, the most favourite activity (by staff and children!) has been learning the dandelion song with dandelion clock blowing challenges – Louise almost passed out from trying to blow all the seeds off!

Other highlights this week have included drainpipe sand transportation in the sand tray, a shoe shop with a Clarks shoe measurer in the role play area and – a very popular activity – tool work with real hammers, screwdrivers and Allen keys in a great resource created for us by Jannah’s husband. Fantastic experiences for developing those finger muscles and coordination!

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *This week the Flying Fish have been consolidating their knowledge of all the letter sounds that they have learnt so far, using them to create words in a ‘game show’ of them against the adult- a very motivating game for encouraging blending and segmenting skills.*

*The Flying Fish have continued to develop ‘word part’ awareness with games involving instruments to tap out the rhythm of syllables within songs.*

 **Out & About sessions:**

Flower hunting and exploring in Greenfield gardens was the focus on Monday and Tuesday’s Out & Abouts with the children investigating if any of the flowers had developed seeds. They also created their own flowers with chalk on the paving stones on the amphitheatre, thinking about the different parts of a flower that they would need to draw.

On Thursday the entire preschool crew went for an outing to the beach where we had lots of fun in the lovely sunshine. Ball skills, push/pull concepts and strength with our long rope and lots of small world play were seen as the children enjoyed the space and freedom that the little beach offers us.

|  |
| --- |
| Ideas to support your child at home: Next week we will be encouraging the children to bring in any fruit seeds that they find in the fruit that they have been eating so that we can plant them to grow trees for the queens’ jubilee. Please encourage your child to notice seeds within their fruit and to pick them out. We would particularly like to grow a plum tree so any stones would be most appreciated! Avocado stones also welcome!  |
|  |