Play & Learning Newsletter

18th– 22nd October 2021

Straw, sticks, bricks, hay bale, secure, stable, first, second, third.

Wonder words to use with your child:

This was our final week of piggies, wolves and all things houses, a focus that the children have really got their teeth into and developed some great language, maths and building skills. They have continued to retell the story but this week we used pink and grey socks to use to act the story out. We were amazed at how readily they assumed the roles of the pigs and wolf, despite the fact that they only had a sock on their hand to represent their character; it just goes to show the strength of their imaginations! The Starfish have absorbed the language so well and are using it independently with confidence now. The Flying Fish were challenged to use their knowledge of the story and adapt it – contributing to a group story map of 3 different animals and a big bad ‘something’. There were so many great ideas for changing elements of the story and we had bunnies building different vegetable houses, big bad bears and 3 big elephants. This is a skill in itself to be able to adapt something they know so well – and the stories created were as good as the original (if not better!).

The children have really enjoyed sharing the photos of their homes. We have been spotting shapes on their houses and talking about who lives in their house and representing that number with dots and fingers. This had led into talking about more/less and comparison of numbers.

Turn taking and sharing are always skills that we work on encouraging with all the children, and sometimes we set up play & learning opportunities that we know will explicitly require practice of these skills. This week we set up duplo vehicle heaven in the sand tray, with ramps and different levels to utilise too. As predicted, there was lots of opportunities for having to wait turns and understand that pre-school toys have to be shared, even when you absolutely love the one that you are playing with! We are really pleased with how well the children are beginning to cope with this concept and some of the older ones are now readily offering turn taking as a compromise when two people want the same toy. Great to see!

Other highlights this week have included:

* Utilising their understanding of 2D shapes to make houses in the Creating Area.
* Exploring and playing with subitising with playdough and the mathematical resource of numicon.
* Creating dark dens and then using torches inside it to explore the mirror (and giggle with friends).
* Cooking and mealtime role play in the home corner.
* Practising our balancing skills on the twisty snake.
* Finding out about houses around the world.
* Water, puddle and bubble exploration outside – and using subitising skills in spotting bubble numbers.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** The Flying Fish have continued to practice their awareness of the syllables within words, playing games which require them to orally break words up whilst clapping.

The Starfish have continued to develop their awareness of the language of the story of The Three Little Pigs – using the sock puppets to support this.

 **Out & About sessions:** A combination of not very helpful weather conditions and staff absences meant that unfortunately we were unable to run Out & About sessions this week.

Ideas to support your child at home:

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| **Autumn Treasure Hunt** | Children playing in fall leaves | Yellow and red autumn leaves background |  |

If you get a chance during halfterm we would love your child to go on an Autumn Treasure Hunt and collect leaves, acorns, conkers, horse chestnuts and any other autumn treasures that they find to bring into pre-school on their return after the week off. We will be using these in all sorts of activities during that week so lots of them would be much appreciated – plus it will provide your child with some prior knowledge about these natural treasures before they encounter them at pre-school. And, even more importantly, walking in the woods and out in nature is lots of fun and helps burn off some excessive energy – always a bonus!