Play & Learning Newsletter

19th October – 23rd October 2020

Crispy, crunch, scrunch, acorn, injured, stethoscope, leaf veins

Wonder words to use with your child:

We have immersed the children in the season of Autumn this week, with lots of play and learning experiences involving autumn leaves (thank you so much to everyone who helped supply these!). We have thought about words to describe the sensation of walking through and feeling the leaves, closely observed at the leaf veins, printed and rubbed them to see if we can see the leaf veins clearly (after much exploring we decided this worked better on playdough than paint though), used them in playdough creations, created hedgehogs from them and sang and read about them! You can see why we needed lots of them. The story ‘We’re Going on a Leaf Hunt’ has been a lovely backdrop to the play and learning experiences this week.

The ‘leafy’ theme continued into our role play area with a Woodland Animal Rescue Centre. All sorts of woodland animals and birds were discovered injured or poorly and required lots of love and care and medical attention, plus homes being made for them to sleep in whilst they recovered. We also had to get our tongues around the word ‘stethoscope’ – a great word to break into syllables to ease articulation of it 😊. The area has seen lots of lovely collaborative play between children and also demonstrations of kind, caring and concerned attitudes – which is always heart-warming to see in children so young.

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

 Lots of play with syllables has been the focus this week, ranging from linking physical movements to the ‘beats’ in a word with jumping races, beating instruments in time with breaking up words in syllables and ‘woodland exploring’ chants with animal surprises! Performing physical actions whilst orally emphasising the distinct parts of a word is a great way to supporting children’s awareness of these ‘beats’ within a word. It’s also a good way of maintain their attention and involvement – essential when you are interacting with little ones 😊.

Ideas to support your child at home: Please see below for our leaf song which the children have enjoyed singing this week.

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| C:\Users\rebekah.ii000620\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\R3R1IC5S\MC900250101[1].wmf |  It would be lovely if you could sing it with your child at home too! It is a great song for supporting number skills, as well as using their mouths to create specific sounds (the wind howling) and listening and following actions.  |
| 5 Little leaves so bright and gay,Were dancing around on a tree one day.The wind came howling through the town,ooooooo ooooooooAnd 1 little leaf came tumbling down.The song is then repeated with 4 leaves, 3 leaves and so on. The tune is ‘5 currant buns in a bakers shop’! (Use Youtube if you are unsure of the tune). Our youngest members of pre-school have been singing the song starting with 3 leaves, whilst the oldest have also been using numerals 0-5 to match with the correct amount of leaves whilst we sing it. Whilst you sing the song, encourage your child to put up their fingers to show how many leaves are on the tree (this can be very tricky for little fingers so don’t worry if they find it difficult!). Can they make the sound of the wind blowing? Can they make their fingers ‘tumble down’ to the floor to show the leaf falling? You could collect some autumn leaves and use these whilst you sing the song. Most of all have fun!!  |