Play & Learning Newsletter

20th – 24th September 2021

Brother, sister**, family, grandparents, pets**

Wonder words to use with your child:

Our pre-school crew has continued to grow in size this week as more new members have settled into pre-school life. We have spent lots of time encouraging interactions and talk between the children (and grown ups), supporting them in getting to know each other, beginning to remember each other’s names and things about each other. This social awareness is really important in supporting them to feel comfortable and familiar with their peers and the staff and helps ensure that they have high levels of wellbeing whilst they are with us – one of the vital ingredients required for children to be in the optimum ‘state’ to learn. Their family photos have been great props for encouraging and promoting these interactions and they have enjoyed looking at each other’s pictures and, for the older ones, comparing notes on brothers, sisters, pets, grandparents etc. Many thanks for taking the time to send them over to us.

We have had quite a few children have birthdays over the past couple of weeks and this led us to set up a birthday party in the home corner with banners, cards and – one of the best resources to include in the home corner – chocolate smelling playdough! We have had lots of birthday cakes/buns being made for different people, counting skills being used whilst candles were stuck in, creativity with the use of open ended loose parts and lots of lovely role play games using the children’s own experiences of birthday fun.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** The Flying Fish children have played ‘listening’ games this week the aim being to encourage their ears to tune into the everyday sounds around them. Great listening skills are essential laying the foundations for your child’s phonic development. We know this seems a long way off but the work we do now on this skill will pay dividends in the future! The children have really enjoyed listening and guessing the source of various sounds, both in games with real objects and ‘listening clips’ on the laptop (played as a group).

The Starfish have been using our ‘Song Sack’ to become familiar with different nursery rhymes – and introducing the concept of ‘turn taking’ – which can be a tricky concept when you are 2! 😊

 **Out & About sessions:** Our ‘Out & About’ sessions haven’t properly started yet but Wednesday afternoon’s and Friday morning’s small numbers presented us with the perfect opportunity to take the children out to Greenfield Gardens and the little beach for some physical games, plus the chance to begin to learn about how we keep safe whilst out in the community.

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Ideas to support your child at home:

Our ‘wonder words’ are the words we have a particularly focus on during the week/several weeks. This is to help build and support your child’s developing vocabulary bank – another element which will help them as they travel through their learning journey. Using this words at home as well will further embed them into your child’s store of words so it’s always worthwhile having a look at the words we are focusing on and making a point of using them in your interactions with them. Obviously, some of the words are trickier to understand/grasp and others more directed towards the younger members of pre-school. We have differentiated these with the ones in **bold text** being the ones we would more likely use with the older children.