Play & Learning Newsletter

22nd – 26th November 2021

**Brave, worried, owlet, nocturnal, swooped, branch, silent, hunting**

Wonder words to use with your child:

The lovely book ‘Owl Babies’ by Martin Waddell has inspired this week’s play and learning experiences, making the most of the children’s current love of the ‘dark’ and also introducing some beautiful vocabulary and notions of different feelings. The children have enjoyed using 4 soft owl teddies to re-enact the story and also create cosy homes to put them in. They have shared ‘owl treats’ (worms and mice) between the owls using their subitising skills and practiced counting skills with our Hungry Owls song. The book has also been great for introducing the word ‘nocturnal’ and finding out about other nocturnal animals using information books.

Our dark den (pitch black in there!) has been a very busy spot all week long, with the children using their torches to play games with each, share stories and explore the different light up gadgets in there. The OHP was also available for creating shadows with animals and creating pictures – this resource never tires and when it is out there is always someone utilising it in their child initiated play.

The Rock Pool area had the Owl’s home in it (the wigwam) – with a branch (balance beam) for the children to practice perching on like an owl – which is quite tricky and encouraged perseverance and practice, super skills to see developing!

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** Our last week of focusing specifically on rhyming for the Flying Fish before we move on to our next ‘listening’ concept. This week the children have used their skills to play bingo and ‘Odd one out’ games. Rhyming is a tricky concept for little ones so don’t worry if your child isn’t yet confident with it as we continually revisit it through our day to day activities.

The Starfish have enjoyed playing games which have encouraged them to listen carefully to what an adult is describing so they could work out the nocturnal animal that she was spying.

 **Out & About sessions:** With so many children away this week we took advantage of the small numbers and took all the children who were present on Out & Abouts, including the Starfish – who loved it! We packed our torches and went off to explore nooks, crannies and holes that we found in search of bugs, owls and fairy doors! There was lots of investigating what happens when you shine torches through leaves and looking at the intricate details of them, working out which ones were best to use.

On Thursday we were very lucky to meet a real owl! Whilst saying hello to the reindeers at Gwel an Mor one of the lovely staff brought a very cute little owl out for us to meet. The children were so excited and asked some lovely questions about it. Many of them decided that they’d rather like a pet owl at home (have to say that I would agree with them – he was so sweet!).

Ideas to support your child at home:

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| If your child doesn’t have a torch then we would strongly recommend buying them one for Christmas – particularly one which has a strong light. The children have all loved using their torches over the past couple of weeks, with them adding another element to an experience or activity. They are great for making sharing a story exciting whilst under the covers or in the dark den, encouraging your child to focus on specific things in the pictures. They are super for investigating what makes good shadows and exploring the best way of producing one (some lovely trial and error experiences). They make a walk on a damp and deary day a bit more interesting with hunts for holes to shine their light down. They make dancing in the dark lots of fun and can support understanding of prepositions for where to shine them. And the list goes on . . . definitely a top pressie for a pre-schooler 😊.  |