Play & Learning Newsletter

24th – 28th January 2022

**recipe, ingredients, first, next, then, finally**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week has been the last of our focus on food, with the children spending time looking at recipe books and pretending to cook in the café through looking at recipes and thinking about the ingredients they would need. Some of the children have followed instructions to make a funny rice cake face and then used their experience of doing this to giving instructions to the younger children so that they could also create one for their snack too. This was a great opportunity for the older ones to develop their explanation skills and think about how they needed to tell and help the younger ones. The younger ones were very motivated to listen carefully to their peers and follow exactly what they said – a good experience for them as well!

A huge thank you to Maddie’s family for our ongoing donations of daffodils – and to everyone that has been buying them. We made £21.00 from last week’s batch which enabled us to buy some rainbow shape sets that we have had our eyes on for a while, plus a new tool set (which also happened to be a super cheap price at Lidl last week😊). These have been lovely additions to the children’s construction resources, and they made wonderful use of them this week whilst adding extensions to the doll’s house and creating different structures. There has been lots of talk about squares and triangles and exploration around how they fit/don/t fit together – some super mathematical language and thinking which has all been prompted by these new resources.

Hole punches have been investigated and utilised in the creating area this week and there have been all sorts of creations made through Mel’s extensive collection of bear yoyo cards, wool and holes. Super opportunities for threading practice and there has been lots of great concentration observed whilst being engaged in this.

Harbour House returned the Pen pal book last week so this week we have been busy creating pictures and thinking of questions that we wanted to ask them – all around food, (plus a few photos of the lambs that visited us). The story of The Hungry Caterpillar has inspired talk about which are our favourite foods and which foods we would like to eat if we are ‘very hungry’. We are looking forward to finding out what the residents of Harbour House have as favourite foods!

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

The Starfish children have used the book of The Hungry Caterpillar to talk about foods we like and also as a basis for sequencing story work, thinking about the order that the story happened in and retelling it as group and to each other.

The Flying Fish have been making ‘sound cakes’ where they have had to find ingredients to make a particular sound of cake – supporting their skill of identifying the initial sound of a word. We have also been feeding Metal Mike the Robot who was being very fussy and only wanted to each either ‘s’ or ‘p’ sounding foods.

 **Out & About sessions:** With few staff available this week we only managed one trip out on Tuesday. A great morning was had in Illogan Woods where we all found sticks that we decorated with wool and then used to do special jobs. We also hunted for good places to climb and slide – an activity that all our pre-school crew love to do!

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| Ideas to support your child at home: Giving your child a chance to explain how to do something to you is a great way to develop their language skills, especially if you pretend that you don’t know how to do it! If your child is a younger one then they will probably do this in a mostly physical way, with a few words at key moments. Older ones will use language but may end up getting them muddled. A good way to help them sequence the order of what they want to say is use their fingers to provide a visual prompt for each stage, using ‘first’, ‘then’, ‘next’, etc as they do it.  |