Play & Learning Newsletter

24th – 28th May 2021

**fee, fi, fo, fum, giant, growing, planting, seeds, seedling, germinate, sprouting, treasure, split, lift the flap, peek, surprise**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we used the book ‘SSSSH’ to inspire the play and learning. This continued our Giant/beanstalk theme and was one that none of the children had seen before. The book has ‘lift the flaps’ in it and we used this to fuel the children’s imaginations with what they could find behind a flap. They had to imagine what they would like to find at the top of a beanstalk, and what would be hiding behind the door of the castle. The pictures they created were amazing and we had lots of fun showing them to our friends and thinking about what the things behind the door might say.

Beanstalks continued to fuel our maths development with lots of number track games being played this week, focusing on developing the understanding of stopping counting when you get to specific number and how to move along a number track when you have a set number of jumps to make. It was very interesting to observe the different levels of understanding with regards to this and it is something that we will be providing lots of opportunities for over the next half term. We’ve even devised a beanstalk song to help with this skill!

On Monday we received a letter from Jim the Giant! He wrote to apologise for taking some of Jack’s money last week and explained that he wanted to buy himself a birthday cake. The children responded by making him birthday cakes fit for a giant from the playdough and junk modelling on the creating table. We also had birthday cards being made for him and on Friday, Jim wrote again telling the children how happy it had made him.

Lastly, one of the big highlights this week has been a box, big enough for a giant. The children have used it for all sorts of things, the most popular has been a swimming pool, complete with steps to dive off and a lifeguard to rescue “sinking people”!

 **Out & About sessions:** Not the best week of Out & Abouts due to staff shortages and the weather! We managed one on Monday and Wednesday to the little woods to collect sticks which we used in for a counting and number focus. We had lots of fun playing pooh sticks on the bridge too!

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

The Flying Fish have played games which have utilised their developing phonic skills. Metal Mike has been fed with the Packed Lunch game (requiring them to use their blending and segmenting skills) and we have also played Sound Lotto with all the letter sounds we have learnt so far.

The Starfish have been developing their rhyming skills whilst making Silly Soup – a song that they are loving.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Board games – Board games are not as popular as they once use to be which is shame as they are an excellent way of developing children’s understanding of moving forwards and backwards along a number line. You’d be surprised with how many children find it hard to grasp the ‘move 5 jumps along’ type of instruction, thinking that they need to land on the numeral 5.

If you don’t have any board games at home it’s really simple to make one by just drawing out a long, snake like, track and dividing it into sections with numbers in. You just need a dice and something to use for counters. Maybe your child can decide what will be at the end of the track, or what will happen when you get to the end.

With very young children just go up to 5, and use a number dice with 1 and 2 spots only.