Play & Learning Newsletter

22nd- 26th April 2024

**Journey, aeroplane, train, campervan, destination, vehicle**

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week the children have been talking about journeys and the different forms of transport we could use to go on them. We have used the stories ‘The Train Ride’ and ‘Maisy’s Bus’ to promote discussions as to where they would like to go on a journey to. The Starfish children have used a variety of vehicles to support their love of singing, for example songs about tractors, boats, aeroplanes, trains and cars.

The children have enjoyed using the role play area as a train station, and lining up the chairs to make a train. They have been very imaginative in deciding where the train will take them, including up to dinosaur island! A well as vocabulary and language, role play helps develop communication skills as they communicate with each other, role play is the most effective way of acquiring language.

Along side this we had a ticket station with stampers, hole punches and pencils to make their own tickets and bringing mark making into their role play.

In the top room the children loved our mud bug sensory play with chocolate mud for the insects to play in. Next to this we had a cleaning station to scrub and rub the insects clean again with various brushes. Promoting muscle strength and hand eye coordination.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus: The Flying Fish have been using magnetic letters to practice making their names, and using the song sack to assess if they can complete lines in nursery rhymes (supporting rhyming awareness and knowledge of rhymes. We have also been playing blending and segmenting games with metal mike robots. The children are becoming experts at hearing the sounds in words.***

***The Starfish have really developed their listening skills and are becoming more confident when clapping out syllables in names of objects. They have been loving using our vehicle song sack this week and learning some new songs.***

 **Out & About sessions: This week the Flying Fish have visited Harbour House. Many of the residents are nearing or past 100 years old! The new group of children have made themselves at home quickly and its lovely to see them interacting and chatting with the residents as they participate in a shared activity together. This week they made frog windmills.**

**We also took them on a journey around Portreath stopping at various places like Portreath Primary school and Jubilee garden and other landmarks in Portreath. The children then planned their own journey on paper and we annotated what they drew. The children really have got a good understanding of what a journey is and ways to get there.**

Ideas to support your child at home:

Try to encourage awareness and knowledge of rhymes by singing a variety of nursery rhymes and songs with your child/children. You can miss out some words or even lines of rhymes to see if they could fill in the gaps.

Why not plan a journey with your child. Maybe a bus or a train journey or even on foot. Sometimes the simplest activities such as this promote bonding and language skills. Deciding on an activity together and making a plan are really enjoyable and give them a sense of achievement and control over their life.