Play & Learning Newsletter

2nd – 6th Dec 2024

frozen, freezing, melt, melting, climate, globe, destination, country

Wonder words to use with your child:

We have been focusing on how we can care for our planet this week at an age appropriate level – such an important message for our little ones. We have used several books during our group time activities and in particular The Giants of South Georgia by Ross James and Olga Volgina – Told in rhyme and beautifully illustrated. It’s an empowering book with an environmental theme of how regular people have worked to protect and restore South Georgia and it’s wildlife. ( Written by an Uncle of one of our current children )

We have used our large globe and a bag of animals for them to pick from a bag to talk about where that animal may live in the world, what the climate is in that country is ( hot or cold ) Which country they would like to visit and what clothes they might need to take with them.

We have had a big focus on what we can/can’t recycle and have provided the children with their own recycling box. They love to check their wrappers to see if they can spot the recycling logo and proudly pop it in the box.

In the top room we have had the large tray full of ice, artic animals and paint for the children to explore ( colour mixing and exploration is a huge interest to many of our children at the moment so we are providing many different experiences to allow them to expand their knowledge and investigate further with many mediums )

***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The flying fish children have been focussing on listening carefully and concentrating to a description so they can identify which fruit/ item we have been describing from the tray. We also played another listening game where they had to carefully listen to where the sound was coming from ( one child in the circle playing a musical instrument ) We have also been continuing to practice syllables, clapping out artic animal names and identifying how many each one has … pen – guin (2 clap) wal - rus etc.*

*Star fish have been joining in with movement/action songs such as dingle dangle scarecrow, 5 little monkeys jumping on the bed, ring o ring o roses and having lots of fun.*

**Out & About sessions:** This week we have focused on caring for our local environment and all doing our bit to keep it clean, while caring for our planet at the same time. The children have loved getting to grips with the litter pickers and been very enthusiastic about picking up litter haha! They have worked well as a team. We collected 26 pieces of litter from Greenfield gardens alone!

Ideas to support your child at home: 

Be a shape detective! Whilst you are out and about with your child encourage your child to find shapes (that they are familiar with) in the environment, for example if you know that they can name a circle ask them to be a ‘shape detective’ for circles.

Drawing their attention to other shapes, or talking about the shapes you can see in things that they are interested in (e.g. wheels on a car, number plates, the shape of their food) is also a good way to gently encourage their awareness and recognition of this )

It’s a great idea to describe shape properties even before or after they can name them such as curved, pointy, straight, long, short. Model this to your child with things of interest to them by saying for example “ I notice that this shape has 3 points “ or “ “look this shape has two longer sides and two shorter sides”, “ this shape goes all the way around” . This will help support their mathematical understanding , special awareness, ability to describe and compare objects, work out how objects can fit together and solve problems!

Another great activity to support this is to have a small collection of item on a tray and take turns to describe one of the items without actually saying its name. Start off with a harder clue and then give extra clues until it is identified. ( this is much harder than it sounds and takes lots of practice ) We found with the fruit tray describing game many of the children then went to the playdough table independently and made 3D fruits afterwards, ( now that they had the skill to think about how to describe them they were able to actually make them)

Why not incorporate litter picking into your family walks. The children have loved using the litter pickers and it’s an ideal opportunity to talk about caring for our planet ( they are only a couple of pounds from Warriors ) Re-use, reduce, recycle – this is such an important message to get across to our little people – let them help you recycle, check packets to see if items can be recycled etc and discuss this topic at home as much as possible.