Play & Learning Newsletter

11th – 15th November 2024

Nursery Rhymes to sing with your child**:-** **Twinkle twinkle little star,**

**Old MacDonald had a farm, The big ship sails, Five currant buns, Incy wincy spider**

This week has been all about nursery rhymes – to run in line with World Nursery Rhyme week which takes place every year in November. This is an initiative which aims to highlight the importance and benefits of young children learning nursery rhymes. Research has proven that if a child knows 8 nursery rhymes off by heart by the time they are 4 years old then they are usually among the best readers and spellers in their class by the time they are 8 years old. Such a simple thing to do for parents and educators alike but so beneficial!

Every year there are 5 nursery rhymes chosen to focus on. The ones we have focused on are listed at the top of the page – old favourites with some less familiar ones mixed in. The children have enjoyed The big ship sails as this has been one that not many have known. Incy wincey spider has been a particular favourite also as we had the rice spider activity with different height spouts to pour rice and spiders down to go along next to it. We also had lots of fiction and non-fiction spiders stories next to the activity.

We have also had animals in the water tray with the addition of toothbrushes to brush the animal’s teeth. 😊 We have also used the song ‘Down in the Jungle’ to talk about teeth cleaning – adapting it to jungle animals who are brushing their teeth instead of washing their clothes. Good teeth cleaning habits are important to install in children whilst they are young so that they are set up for understanding the importance of this through life and it becoming a normal part of their routine. The children have also enjoyed learning our ‘Brush your teeth’ song which reminds them of the importance of brushing teeth TWICE a day. I hope they are ticking their tooth brushing charts – remember to return them when it’s completed for a certificate and small prize.

In the creating area with have had lots of paper as well as strips of paper taped to the edge of the table to practice scissor skills. We also added spaghetti and other items to encourage snipping.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** Rhyming has obviously been the name of the game this week as well as lots of singing and play with words around the nursery rhymes that we are focusing on. The Flying Fish children’s ears are becoming really good at noticing subtle differences in words whilst rhyming which is one of the skills that they need to be able to use phonic knowledge later on at school when reading and spelling.

The Starfish have loved the nursery rhyme focus and are becoming more confident in their renditions of them. 😊

**Out & About sessions:** We went to harbour house on Monday and made Diwali lanterns. They started by snipping very carefully along the lantern with encouragement from their partner (adult resident) and then decorated with lots of gems and stickers before taping them together. The children have settled very quickly and are becoming much more confident to chat with the residents. We finished with nursery rhymes from this week’s challenge which were greatly enjoyed by everyone as we all sang together.

We also had a trip to the beach to join in with ring games, self-control games and general exercise running and exploring.

Ideas to support your child at home:

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| It would be great if you could sing the rhymes that we have been using this week at home with your child, as it will add a few more into their ‘bank’ of nursery rhymes which will hugely support their phonic skills. The songs were:* Twinkle twinkle little star
* Old MacDonald had a farm
* The big ship sails
* Five currant buns
* Incy wincy spider

Googling videos of them is a good way to listen to the tune if you are not familiar with them all.  |