Play & Learning Newsletter

3rd - 7th October 2022

Straw, sticks, bricks, hay bale, secure, stable, first, second, third, huff, puff

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we have been huffing and puffing with the story of The Three Little Pigs – a great story for encouraging joining in with repeating phrases and for independent retelling. The children have loved using different resources to listen to and then jointly retell the story and with very input from actual book – just props and oral story telling. The children have listened so attentively, and many are now retelling it themselves in varying ways – something which has been wonderful to hear and has been super for developing their language skills. We have also been singing some fun songs linked to the story too which has further embedded the language from the story.

The story has inspired other play too with houses being built for pigs – and cars! Many of our boys are car mad this year and so we are trying to use their interest in cars to encourage play in other areas. Providing playdough with straw, sticks and blocks and lots of cars has prompted garage and house building for their cars and it’s been great to see them focused and engaged in play that develops different skills. The Starfish have enjoyed having 3 pigs and wolf in their kitchen area and there has been lots of food being made for them , plus the creation of homes for them made from all sorts of ‘interesting’ things 😊.

The children have loved the addition of some hay bales to the playground this week. They have provided us with the opportunity to smell, feel and think about whether we would want to build a house out of hay or straw – or sleep in a bed made from it! What the children have enjoyed the most however, is climbing, balancing and jumping off them and experiencing the sensation of walking along an uneven surface. We have had all sorts of obstacle courses made from them and they have been a super resource for adding something a little different to the outside area. There has been lots of farming and stable play too with the brooms being a very popular prop!

Other highlights this week have included:

* Communication friendly rockers to help develop friendships between children.
* Creative opportunities with collage and glue – plus developing control and fine motor skills.
* Independent daffodil bulb planting outside – supporting their understanding of change and growth, plus strengthening the muscles needed for later writing.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** The Starfish have been developing their language skills through joining in with the repeating phrases from the story of the 3 Little Pigs – plus singing songs to encourage listening and attention skills.

The Flying Fish have been playing games where they have to listen for and copy different sounds which are made with their voices, plus listen out for specific words in familiar songs. This is all helping them develop their listening skills.

 **Out & About sessions:** On Monday the children had the first Out and About to the little beach to build homes for some of our special ‘Out and About’ friends. The main highlight for the children though was splashing in the sea – and getting rather wet! Lots of fun though.

On Thursday we had a lovely morning visiting the gardens of Terry Reynard and her neighbours, Colin & Kathryn and Phil. Each garden had an apple tree in it plus LOTS of other fruit and veg growing and each gardener very kindly let the pre-school crew help harvest their goodies. So many skills developed and so much learning occurred whilst climbing ladders, picking apples from trees, filling wheelbarrows with windfalls, picking raspberries, squeezing home grown orange, pulling carrots, digging up potatoes and exploring veg patches and flower beds – plus getting to choose, pick and eat a yummy red apple. A truly wonderful morning and such a lovely way to link up with members of the local community. We are hoping to visit them again in the spring to plant seeds in their gardens.

 Ideas to support your child at home:

It would be great if you could share the story of ‘The 3 Little Pigs’ at home – either in book form or just through retelling. Encourage them to join in with the repeating phrases in the book (e.g. *Little Pig, Little Pig, let me come in)* as this is great for developing their language skills. If you have an older child who is confident and very familiar with the story maybe you could make up a different version of it – for example, The 3 little dinosaurs and the big bad T Rex. Oral story telling is brilliant for producing great story writers when they are older!