Play & Learning Newsletter

16th-20th January 2023

Safety, hazardous, danger, dangerous, environment, cautious.

Wonder words to use with your child:

This week we have been learning all about our Pre-school Golden Rules and why we have them, talking about the need for tidying and why it is important to do it. There was a lot of discussions about how we not only care for our pre-school but also for each other. The children have also been focusing on how to keep safe within our environment, and being aware of some of hazards they could come across, for example broken toys, scissors, water or sand on the floor and the different parts of the outdoor environment that could pose risks. This has prompted lots of awareness during their play and it’s been lovely to see children independently tidying up toys, sweeping up sand and letting their peers know of possible hazards – our aim has been achieved! 😊

This week the top room was turned into a builder’s yard with wooden blocks, tools and hard hats to encourage imaginative and safe play. There has been lots of discussion on how to build certain structures and some great co-operative play among pairs and groups of children to work on models and creations together and then use them within their play. Also lots of talk about how to keep your fingers safe whilst using tools!

The Starfish have really enjoyed exploring the heuristic play mat this week, playing with every day objects like curtain rings, milk bottle tops, different sized boxes and ribbons to name a few. Having an open-ended object to play with stimulates innovation, creativity and imagination as they discover the ways in which the object can be used, all characteristics of which are essential to learning and development. 😊.

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** The Flying Fish have used the Sound Box and Bertie Bus to find out about the sound ‘p’, exploring objects and pictures of animals that begin with this sound and learning the action that goes with the sound. They have also been recognising and sorting s and p sounding objects, working on their learning from the previous week.

The Starfish have been developing their language skills through taking objects out of a bag, labelling them and then talking about how we use them safely, e.g. marbles, a knife, a pair of scissors. This has been good for getting them to use their language to explain with extended sentences.

 **Out & About sessions:** Unfortunately no Out & Abouts this week due to the weather and staffing. Hopefully drier days will be with us soon and we can get back into the routine of regularly getting out into the community again.

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| Ideas to support your child at home: Talk to your child about how to keep safe within and outside the home. Point out possible dangers and what they need to do to ensure they remain safe around them. Give them appropriate jobs of responsibility that allow them to independently manage an appropriate level of danger, e.g., carrying scissors (blades closed in a closed fist), hammering a nail into something, carrying a jug of water. Whilst you are standing on the pavement waiting to cross the road, encourage them to tell you when THEY think it’s safe to walk across. This helps them manage their own safety which in turn makes them more aware of hazards and danger.  |