Play & Learning Newsletter

30th Jan – 3rd February 2023

**Dinosaur, stomp, fierce, spikey, excavator**

Wonder words to use with your child:

Dinosaurs are always a very popular interest in the pre-school and this year’s crew are no exception to that! We have used the story ‘Dinosaur Dig’ to develop mathematical skills with the children. With all of the children we are encouraging them to use their fingers to represent the number of things they can see. Starting with just 1-3 with the very young ones and moving to up to 10 with our older flying fish. Lots of research has recently been done on the foundations skills that children need to become successful mathematicians – and one of them is competent use of their fingers for number representation. The Flying Fish have also done lots of exploring of 5 frames, another great way to help them develop a deep understanding of the quantity of 5 and all the variations within it.

Other highlights this week have included props to re-enact the Dinosaur Dig story in the sand tray, fantastic wooden block construction outside building swimming pools and tending to the injured dinosaurs and other animals in the Animal Hospital.

***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have been practising initial sound identification of the letter ‘t’ whilst playing cross the river and feeding metal mike. They also had fun recognising long and short words (by hearing them) as we played a game with dinosaur names (ideal for this concept) and comparing them with their own.*



*The Starfish have really enjoyed moving their bodies to the rhythm (a great activity for developing listening skills) whilst moving to some different Dinosaur Stomp songs. Even the most reluctant dancer has been grooving!*

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 **Out & About sessions:** We managed a few Out & About sessions this week; to the little beach where the children had to

On Thursday the children

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| Ideas to support your child at home:  We have been learning a dinosaur counting song at pre-school which we would appreciate you practising with your child at home. It is to the tune of ’10 Green Bottles’, and goes like this . . .  *5 big dinosaurs playing in the breeze, 5 big dinosaurs playing in the breeze, and when 1 big dinosaur hides behind the trees . . . there’ll be 4 big dinosaurs playing in the breeze.*  *4 big dinosaurs playing in the breeze, and when 1 big dinosaur hides behind the trees . . . there’ll be 3 big dinosaurs playing in the breeze (and so on until there are no big dinosaurs left!)*  We have been encouraging the children to use their fingers to represent the dinosaurs and pretending to hide one finger behind their hands when we sing the part about 1 hiding behind a tree. If your child has some toy dinosaurs at home then they would probably love to use them as they sing the song and hide one away each time. This will help support an early understanding of subtraction and ‘1 less’ than a number |