Play & Learning Newsletter

6th - 10th February 2023

**Valentine, love, heart, care**

**Prehistoric, skeleton**

Wonder words to use with your child:

The week set off with a focus on Valentine’s Day and what it means and we had lots of lovely discussions about who they children would like to give Valentine cards to, ranging from pets to friends to grandparents in particular. Making their own cards was a great opportunity for developing those mark making skills and many children now understand that marks hold significance which is an essential first step in their understanding of the concept of writing. All those little lines and wiggles you see drawn over their pictures and paper mean something to them and is their first attempt at ‘writing’ and not to be dismissed!

The children have really enjoyed their ‘Baking Buddies’ activities this week where they made delicious love heart pastries; this encouraged the development of fine motor skills such as rolling, pinching and squeezing.

Other highlights this week have included lots of physical play with tyre rolling races, bat and ball games and dancing to ‘fit and fun’ music cd, all very good ways to work towards their recommended 180 minutes of daily physical activities. We have also continued with the dinosaur theme and made a Dinosaur Lookout Camp in the top room with building blocks, blankets and binoculars…..’look out look out there’s a dinosaur about’!

***Sounds and Letters/language focus:*** *The Flying Fish have been focusing on the initial letter sound ’a’ to a variety of activities, including sound box, metal Mike and cross the river. They have also begun the practice of physical handwriting movements- starting with doing large movements in the air with their fingers and then getting smaller and smaller.*



*The Starfish have continued to enjoy moving their bodies whilst playing with a variety of instruments to more dinosaur songs, and following instructions on how to shake the instruments high/low/fast/slow.*

 **Out & About sessions: We have managed to have 4 Out and About sessions this week, going to the Astro turf to develop our large-muscle movements with balls, ribbons and beanbags. We have been using our excellent listening skills to follow instructions and keep safe. We have been sharing balls and turn taking with resources. To calm down after such a fun out and about session we finished with ring games and some mindfulness noticing what we can see and hear while laying down quietly.**

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| Ideas to support your child at home:  Make an obstacle course inside or in the garden, on the beach or in the park where I have to run around benches, chairs or other obstacles, crawl under or over obstacles or blankets or crawl through a cardboard box to help develop overall body strength, co-ordination and balance. Encourage them to be highly active and get out of breath several times each day. Most importantly have fun 😊 |