Play & Learning Newsletter

2nd - 6th 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. The Starfish have enjoyed having 3 pigs and a wolf in their group time activities. 😊.

The children have loved the addition of some hay, sticks and bricks in the tuff tray 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, brick or sticks – or sleep in a bed made from it!

Other highlights this week have included:

* Watching two short video clips about wolves. The children were really surprised to see how lovely the wolves and their cubs really are. They thought they looked like dogs and thoroughly enjoyed watching them.
* Baking buddies where the children made banana muffins for themselves and their friends.

 ***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. They have been singing action songs and songs with props. This is all helping them develop their listening skills.

 **Out & About sessions:** On Monday the children had the first Out and About to Greenfield gardens. We focused mainly on how we keep safe on our out and abouts. We used our large parachute to play games and practice our self-control. They had lots of opportunities to run freely and jump off the amphitheatre using their gross motor skills.

 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!