Play & Learning Newsletter

3 – 7 June 2024

**Pitch, rucksack, tent pegs, mallet, campfire, sleeping bags**

Wonder words to use with your child:

We began the last half term of the year with a camping theme – following on from some of the children’s experiences during the holiday week. The story ‘Maisy Goes Camping’ (simple but great for inspiring talk about number problems) set the tone for the week and we have had a tent, campfire and sleeping bags available for the children to use in their imaginative play which inspired lots of camping games with groups of children.

Some great construction skills were used by the children whilst creating tents for little sorting people from sticks, material and playdough with lots of problem solving seen too as they worked to get the sticks to stay up and the material not to fall off!

Mark making skills have been practiced through the children using the campsite booking forms as well as tally charts used in several group times to make marks for a purpose.

Lots of mathematical work in group time sessions too with camping number songs, happy campers ‘popping’ out of tents (you have to read the story!) and tally charts to do with the children’s experiences of camping.

 **Out & About sessions:** We had a lovely visit to Harbour house on Monday where the children played bingo with the residents and lots of fun was had by everyone. The highlight for many has been the forest school sessions on Tuesday and Friday – the same groups will go again next week on these days to continue on from learning and activities in week 1. The children played 123 I’m here, made hedgehogs from clay and other natural materials, build their hedgehogs a home to keep them safe until next week, build a bird’s nest – thinking very carefully what materials to use to keep the chicks safe and had a special snack time in the woods!!!

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:***

*This week we practiced lots of out letters and sound skills again -*

The flying fish have been practicing their segmenting skills in an active group time – they picked a cvc picture out of a bag and we jumped to the sound of the word – a very hard skill that needs lots of practice. e.g c - a - t .

We also used our magic paintbrush fingers to practice large scale formation and actions of the letters we have learnt so far. S,a,t,p,I,n,o,c,k,m.

We played I spy with a tray of cvc objects and we sounded it out to see if they could blend the sounds to hear which object it was. I spy a d-o-g.

We played across the river with initial sounds to practice hearing the initial sounds of words.

The starfish have been singing the 5 little campers’ song – to practice counting accurately and follow instructions. They had several group times where they had to practice answering who, what and where questions – using a bear, bag and a hat in the tent. Children had to close their eyes while we put the items in different places each time and when they opened their eyes we asked, who what and where questions. They also shared their camping experiences and listened to the story Maisy goes camping.

Ideas to support your child at home:

Go camping 😊 . . . . joking! Children LOVE camping, adults not always so much so. However, you can give your children a little taste of what camping is like by setting up a beach tent, or making a den, or pitching a small tent, in the garden – or if the garden won’t fit one in then the living room is a good space too. Put one up for the day and let the children eat all of their meals in there, create beds in there and have it be their base for the day. You will find it keeps them very busy and occupied!

Tents, dens and small enclosed spaces are what we call ‘Communication Friendly Environments’ – great spaces for encouraging and promoting language skills.