Play & Learning Newsletter

30th September - 4th October 2024

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 children 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:** We have had a few out and abouts this week with some children going on their first one. We had a visit to the play park to climb, slide, hang and run free. The children were engaged in lots of role play games also at the park. We also had another visit to the astro turf to enjoy the open space and practice our gross and fine 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!

## National Literacy Trust - About the campaign

Take 10 is a campaign from the National Literacy Trust to promote the mental wellbeing benefits of reading.

We know you know the benefits of reading. The right words can spark a child’s imagination, calm their minds and improve their wellbeing – and the magic happens when they read about what interests them.

That’s why we’re joining the [National Literacy Trust](https://literacytrust.org.uk/take-10/)’s virtual author event with [Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet/ Natalie Denny/ A.F. Steadman] on Thursday 10 October to [#Take10ToRead](https://literacytrust.org.uk/take-10/) this #WorldMentalHealthDay.

You can join in at home, too. Finding time to read together is a great way to build special memories and help you both relax.

Whether it’s a book about unicorns, a superhero comic or an adventure story about a child just like yours, spark their imagination and boost their wellbeing. Try it for 10 minutes today and see where it takes you.

For more information on Take 10 or to get involved head over to: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/take-10/>

## Virtual events

### Ages 3-6

#### Take 10 with Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet

Join Sue and Paul as they read from the original *Supertato*! They’ll also be sharing top tips for children to transform supermarket foods into friends (and enemies!) to spark their imaginations. This unique session will focus on listening to stories for wellbeing and enjoying shared reading together.

Find out more and sign up to the event [here](https://literacytrust.org.uk/events/take-10-with-supertato).