

Nursery Newsletter



25/11/2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Big Book focus this week was "Dear Zoo" written by Rod Campbell (the same author as last week). This gave the opportunity to revise animal names and vocabulary based on how they are the **same**, how they are **different** and also introduced the camel with his hump which many children did not know. As the story is based on how the animals are different we could compare the sizes of the boxes, who has the **tallest** crate, who has the **smallest**, who has the **biggest** and so on, embedding language based on **comparing size**. We noticed the giraffe has the **longest** neck but the elephant has the **biggest** ears. Linking to next steps of WellComm, which animal has **no** pattern, **no** tusks, **no** tail? The zoo animals found in the story were added to the water tray with toothbrushes for the children to clean them, a simple way to develop fine motor skills whilst also chatting about the animals they were washing with an adult alongside, embedding the language heard in the story. If you would like to share the story at home with your child it can be found on the attached link.

<https://youtu.be/ZqGYWRHOV6E>

Developing gross motor skills and hand eye coordination, balloons were added to the outdoor environment. The children were challenged to see how long they could keep the balloons in the air by tapping with their hand, some children showed great resilience and didn't give up until they could beat their own target set! This is a simple activity which can be played at home too. Popping bubbles also develops hand eye coordination as well as helping children who have difficulties producing certain speech sounds. Bubble blowing is a good activity to target oral motor or mouth skills. Blowing exercises increase the strength in the tongue for producing the sounds at the back of our mouth like consonants **k** and **g**. It's also good for lip rounding which is necessary for the consonant sound **w** and the vowels **oo** and **oh**. We have noticed in Nursery that some children are having difficulties saying certain sounds hence the play around the bubbles, again something you can do at home. Studies also suggest that the deep breathing required to blow bubbles is great for relaxation and stress relief. "Being in the moment" focusing on a single activity can help relieve tension. This is particularly helpful for children on the ASD Pathway.

Children made flapjacks using a very simple recipe of 1 tablespoon of porridge oats, one tablespoon of honey and one teaspoon of butter, sultanas too were added as an option. By measuring carefully the amounts needed the children showed great focus, the flapjacks were delicious! A reminder that our weekly activities can be seen on our Twitter page, @stannestanleyf1.

Songs introduced this week were **One Finger One Thumb Keep Moving** and **Elephants have Wrinkles** <https://youtu.be/5RKxFio4Tq4> and <https://youtu.be/KJonGSbUWXE>

Take care,

Mrs Riley