

Our sharing diary

18th April

We are continuing our topic of growth by looking at the tiny tadpoles and talking about how they will change and where they usually live. When one of the children said "in a pond" we decided to take the children across to our "Secret Garden" to visit the pond to see if we could see any tadpoles there. This gave an opportunity to talk about keeping safe around water and also how to cross the carpark safely to get there. When we arrived at the garden we discovered how much rubbish had blown into the water over the winter. This again gave us another opportunity for discussion, on how we should look after our environment.



We have also enjoyed sharing stories such as "Who am I" and "Bog Baby" and singing "5 Green and speckled frogs".

We also had fun using some frogs for playing "frogs on a Log", which gave us opportunities for counting as well as using positional language.



Promoting our British values at snack time.

The beginning of May 2016 we put in place a snack time voting system. The children are given a small token on their arrival into the nursery and asked to look at their choices that day. To vote the children place their token in one of the two tubs underneath the photographs of the food items.



When all the children have voted and with adult help the tokens are counted to see which choice has the most. The majority wins. The children very quickly understood this, accepting that the "most" wins, showing respect for others opinions. This has been a valuable exercise in promoting democracy and giving every child a voice and making sure they are listened to.



29th April Drumming workshop

Today "Kathy our music lady" brought in a selection of drums for a special drumming workshop. The children had previously enjoyed using the big drum when telling the stories of "The 3 little pigs" and "The 3 billy goats gruff". The workshop was enjoyed by all, especially the boys!

Since the beginning of this half term we have been having "Football Training" with John on a Thursday afternoon. He is teaching the children how to control the ball and they are becoming really good at following his instructions. They are also having lots of fun as well as keeping fit. They really enjoy the football game at the end of the session and scoring lots of goals.



3rd May Planting seeds

This week we began planting seeds in our garden area. So far we have planted peas, beans, and carrots in the garden. The children decided that we needed a scarecrow to keep the birds away when we talked about how to care for our seeds to help them grow, so a large scarecrow now stands at the end of the garden and the children made individual ones to put in their plant pots when they planted more seeds with their mums at our "Stay and play" session.

We have also made "miniature greenhouses" by using a wet J cloth in a re-sealable plastic bag and putting a pea seed in so the children will be able to see both the roots and the shoot as they begin to grow.

Jaspers Beanstalk

When we were reading the story "Jaspers Beanstalk" to the children we asked the question "What do you think Jasper might find at the top of the beanstalk?" before we got to the end of the story. The children came up with lots of ideas- not just a giant! This led to making a simple story books with their ideas for how the story might end and also making books with their own stories where they learnt about how stories are structured.



12th May Our Secret Garden

We returned to our "Secret garden" again today. After having snack there, we were all set to explore the area when Tori explained that there were some plants that we should keep away from and showed the children what nettles look like so they knew which plants to avoid. We did have fun with some "Sticky weed" then settled down to play with some clay we had taken with us and resources we found in the garden, twigs, leaves, moss, bark and little stones to make our models.



18th May Bee-bot and the beanstalk.

A few of the children helped make a beanstalk to use with Bee-bot, our programmable toy. The younger children learnt how to programme Bee-bot to "climb" to the top of the beanstalk. Older children who had more experience using Beebot were asked to estimate how many times they would have to press the button to move Beebot straight to the top.



26th May Saying good bye to our tadpoles.

Our little tadpoles are no longer tiny any more and have developed their front and back legs. We realised that they would complete their transformation during the half term holiday so we took them to the pond in the secret garden to release them. The children all shouted "bye-bye" to them as we let them go into the water.



We hope you have enjoyed reading about what our children have enjoyed doing and learning about this half term and if you would like to share with us what your children have enjoyed doing we would be pleased to hear from you.

Thank you from all the staff at

Templegate Tiny Tots Pre-school