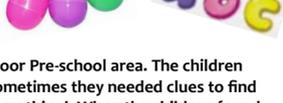


Our sharing diary



18th April Easter Activities

The summer term has begun on Easter Tuesday this year so we decided to celebrate Easter at the beginning of this term with activities such as, making some chocolate Rice Krispie nests so we could practise our counting skills as we added the mini chocolate eggs, as well as an Easter egg hunt. These Easter eggs weren't edible though! They were hollow plastic eggs, inside which we could hide some letter shapes.



Tori hid the plastic eggs around the outdoor Pre-school area. The children then ran around looking for the eggs. Sometimes they needed clues to find them such as directions like 'it's under something'. When the children found an egg, they opened it up to discover a letter shape. They were asked if they knew that letter sound. The game was repeated lots of times for the children practice their letter sounds. Then the children had a chance to hide the eggs for each other, helping each other with the letter sounds.



We also provided an activity where the children had to find the image with the correct rhyming word to complete the cracked egg and fit it back together again saying the words, such as frog and dog, bat and cat and spoon and moon.

There was also an activity to introduce the concept of estimating. We explained that estimating was like guessing. The children had to guess how many eggs in the basket, then count to check and lift the flap to reveal the number.



20th April Football sessions

On Thursdays afternoons for the rest of the term we have booked John, 'the football man'. John will teach the children general football skills such as how to control the ball, dribbling (using small touches of the ball) stopping the ball and turning with it, as well as the importance of keeping fit. We play games to learn these skills as well as having a match at the end of each session.



25th April Looking at changes.

The children are beginning to notice how their environment is changing. We looked at the flowers developing on the apple tree and even spotted a bee visiting one of the flowers. We checked the vegetable garden and found that the onions and leeks we have planted are also doing really well.



As the children seem to be interested in the flowers that they have seen growing outside we suggested that we could change our shop to a flower shop. This idea went down well and the children helped make pots of flowers using artificial flowers pushed into oasis. This was one of the activities provided for today's "Stay and play" session.

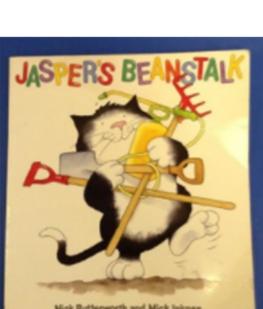
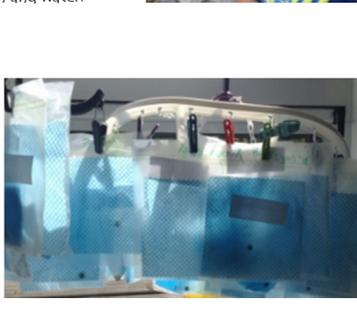


28th April Growing peas

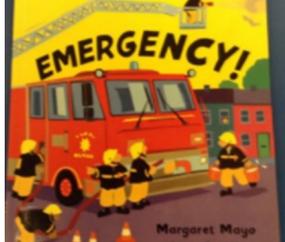
Last year we had really great success growing peas and have decided to repeat this activity, so this week the children began planting peas as part of our topic 'The GREAT Outdoors!'. The peas are not planted in soil but on a piece of damp cloth then sealed in a plastic bag. We discussed what our peas may need to help them grow and the children offered their opinions and showed that they were already aware that they would need sun and water.



First they used pencils to write or make marks for their name on labels for their bags. Then we looked at the dried out peas and felt them. Next we folded up a small piece of cloth to go inside our bags. The children then put one pea inside the bag and using a small pipette, moved water from a jug to the bag. We hung the little bags near a window in the sunshine.



We had chosen Jasper's Beanstalk to use as the focus book which illustrates how the seed develops and grows but there are so many different interests at the moment here at Pre-school that we have chosen a second book as well. The children are enjoying learning about different emergency's and who can help us and what equipment they might use.



9th May Tiny Tots "pop up" shop



The children have enjoyed playing in the flower shop over the past couple of weeks but it has now developed into a "market garden" stall selling real vegetables as well as the original artificial flowers. This is an opportunity for the children to explore the different shapes, sizes, colours and weight of the vegetables, a real sensory experience. The children explored a range of vegetables such as potatoes, swede and radishes. They discovered how heavy a butternut squash was and asked lots of questions about where their food comes from.

They also asked to cut open the vegetables so they could touch and smell them. They also enjoyed tasting some of the vegetables such as the mini cucumbers, sugar snap peas and tomatoes.



10th May Who left that trail ?



Today when we came into Pre-school we found long silvery marks all over the carpet. The children began following these lines trying to find where they began or finished and who might have made these trails. They discovered that a torch made the trail sparkle even more.



We followed on this interest by providing clay outdoors with lots of water to create "slip". This proved to be really good for making tracks and trails using our fingers or small cars. In fact some children tried all sorts of objects to see what marks they could make.



17th May Bug hunt



Hooray, it has been raining all week. Not usually a cause for celebration, but it means that we can finally go on a bug hunt as it has been too dry recently and all the bugs have been hiding.

We turned over some wooden tree stump stumps and everyone shouted out what they could see. Very quickly, we found a beetle, a woodlouse, a very fast spider, a centipede and some other small creepy crawlies. These were put into a pot so the children could observe them. Some other children used a chart to tick off what they had seen.



Sue eventually turned over the really big tree stump. There was lots of, "Urghs and yucky," as they spotted 'slug city' underneath. Lots and lots of slugs were hiding in some holes underneath. Some children thought they were asleep but as they moved, Ben shouted out, "Waking up now." Tori asked if they knew what the long wavy bits at the front were called and explained that they were called feelers, and that slugs had their eyes on the tips of them. Oliver very seriously told me that he had slugs in his garden. Ben whispered "They got stick up eyes. Not like mine. Mine got glasses."

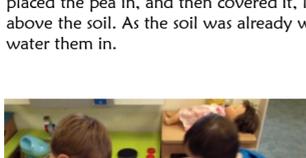


17th May Planting out the peas

Today the children finally had a chance to plant the peas in the soil as there was a break in the rainy weather we have had lately. Karen explained that they would be using a dibber to form a hole in the soil to pop their peas in. Karen wiggled the dibber in the soil, which the children found amusing, to show them what they had to do.

The children carefully removed the growing peas from the plastic bag. Karen pointed out the different parts of the pea. She pointed to the roots that had formed and explained that part of the pea grows down into the soil. Then she pointed to the shoots, telling them that this part of the pea would grow up through the soil.

After each forming a hole in the soil with the dibber, the children placed the pea in, and then covered it, leaving the shoots exposed above the soil. As the soil was already wet, we did not have to water them in.



19th May Boys, mark making!

After using the clipboard a few days ago to record how many bugs they could find a small group of boys were busy at the table in the home corner today. Some of them had clipboards again and were busy mark making. "We're at work" said Joseph "and I'm the boss" he added. "Get back to work everyone" he said to the other boys.



22 May Dressing up in Indian costumes



As we are approaching the beginning of Ramadan, Surinder brought in some of her daughter's special outfits from India.

Elsie enjoyed sharing these outfits and even the boys were keen to try them on.

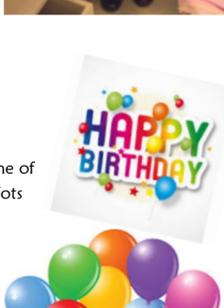


24th May A very special birthday

Today we celebrated a very special birthday with one of our oldest friends Moira, who has worked at Tiny Tots for about 41 years. She now kindly comes to help out on a Wednesday morning. We would all like to wish her a very happy

80th Birthday

Have a lovely birthday Moira. All our love and best wishes from all your friends at Tiny Tots.



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