

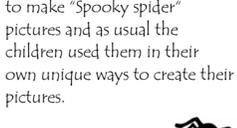
Our sharing diary

31st October Stay and play session



Parents or Grandparents helped to make "Scary pumpkin faces" on paper plates.

As the children are all chatting about Halloween and what costumes they are going to wear to go "Trick or Treating" we have used this theme for today's "Stay and Play" session.



Resources have been provided to make "Spooky spider" pictures and as usual the children used them in their own unique ways to create their pictures.



01 Nov 2017 Spider sandwiches



Spiders are very popular at the moment. We are selling them in the shop along with "Bats and rats" and have used them for counting activities. Today Karen came up with a really good activity following this interest...**Spider Sandwiches!**

These proved to be really popular.

The children chose their own filling either jam or cream cheese and everyone had a plate and knife. Using a circle cutter they each pressed out two circles from a slice of bread then using the knife they spread their chosen filling onto the bread circles. We talked about being safe when using knives and how useful they are for spreading. Together we counted out eight legs, placing four at each side. Next we put the top on and added raisin eyes counting them out again and using the filling like glue to stick the raisins on.

Then came the best bit, eating them!

8th November Making potions

During the last few weeks the children's interests have revolved mainly about Halloween so we have used a selection of "Meg and Mog" books and "Room on the Broom" as our focus books. In all these stories ingredients are mixed together to make magic potions.

Additional resources have been added to the Outdoor Kitchen for children to experiment with to make their own potions.....fresh rosemary, coriander and mint, along with a selection of potion bottles and pestle and mortars for grinding the herbs.

Tommy came to investigate what was happening at the outdoor kitchen table. He began by pulling off pieces of the rosemary and dropping them into the mortar. I showed him how to use the pestle to crush them, encouraging him to have a smell. Tommy smiled as he had a sniff then began to move the rosemary into one of the potion bottles. He poured in some water from a jug, pushed the stopper in, then gave it a good shake. He played here for quite some time, exploring the new resources.



9th November Meg and Mog's interactive story



I put together a range of resources based on the book "Meg's eggs" to create an interactive story activity. Finley joined Tori as she began to read the story to a small group of children. They took turns to add "lizards and newts" to the cauldron and gave "3 loud hoots" helping to say the spell to make some eggs. Finley however was keen to get to the part of the story where the eggs hatch and a dinosaur comes out. He eagerly opened one of the eggs and roared as he took out the "T rex", pointing to it's image in the book. Then they all helped Tori say the spell to make the dinosaurs become small again.

10th November Visiting the Secret Garden again



We are going back to the Secret Garden again today but this time we are planning to have a small fire so before we set off we gathered on the carpet. We talked about our rules for going to the garden and how to keep safe and today we also talked about how we should keep safe around fires. All the children listened to instructions about staying on the seats and keeping away from the fire. When we got to the garden each child took their turn to put a piece of kindling into the fire bowl and sat back on the bench. When the fire was lit they sat watching the flames as they got bigger and began to dance around and listened to the crackling sounds.

The children noticed that the wood was changing colour as it burnt and we talked about the smell and the heat from the fire and how it was changing. When it was time to go back to Pre-school they stood at the back of the benches as I poured water onto the fire to make sure it was safely out. They enjoyed watching the steam and kept asking me to pour on more water.

A few days later a group of boys used red straws to make a fire and then pretended to light it, warning us to keep away so we didn't get hurt.



16th November The Children in Need cake



Today the children helped bake our cake for the Children in Need "Guess how many Smarties" game.

"What's this for?" asked Harry.

"It's a whisk, it mixes the cake" Tori replied, showing them how to turn the handle. They were all keen to have a go.

They took it in turns to measure, add and mix the ingredients.

In the afternoon the children used the knife carefully to add the frosting and decorate the cake with Kit kats and Smarties.



"I wonder who will guess how many Smarties there are and win the cake"

21st November Using Natural resources



A selection of stones/pebbles, cinnamon sticks, raspberry tea leaves, wooden lollipop sticks and twizzlers, a natural firelighter are provided today to use with the stone coloured playdough. Dinosaurs are added to encourage imaginative and adventurous play.



James uses the tea, pinching it between his fingers to sprinkle. He calls it "salt" as he sprinkles. "Why does it need salt?" I ask him. "Cos that's what sea is made of" he says. "This is the seaside" he adds "These are the boats (wooden twizzlers) and these are the people (sticks)".

Harry says he has made a house and thinks the cinnamon "smells like a shop"

24th November Baby clinic and Doctors



Recently there has been a lot of interest in playing "Doctors". The children have been taking it in turns to be the doctor or the patient and have been looking after the babies as well.

We have also have had a few of the girls who have been pretending that they are "having a baby" as well!



So Katie has put together a brilliant Baby clinic for the children.

It contained lots of new items for the children to explore.

There were real nappies, changing mats and baby bottles. There were also thermometers and all kinds of baby lotions.

The children are really enjoying using the real props for their role play.



27th November Our Special Visitors are back again



Today we had a special visit again from two beautiful reindeer named Amos and Starsky. Amos was one of the reindeer that visited us last year and this year he brought along one of his younger friends, Starsky.

The children were given the opportunity to come and see the reindeer. They could sit in the sleigh to look at the reindeer or if they wanted to, they could stroke the reindeer and feed them some of their favourite food, reindeer moss.

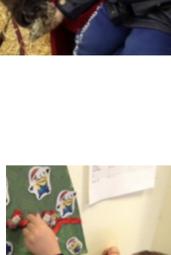
Parents or grandparents were also invited to meet the reindeer as well.



28th November Collective rewards

To earn a short Minions movie the children are learning about 'Collective Rewards' this is when we all work together for one aim. During tidy up time (not a popular time) the children will be observed by staff to see who is making an extra effort to tidy away the toys. Two children making this extra effort will be chosen each session. Their reward will be choosing a Christmas decoration to put on our reward tree. When the tree is full and we have all worked together we will receive our reward.

Good luck everyone, get tidying.



Christmas Activities



We began our Christmas activities this year by decorating baubles to take to hang on the Community Christmas Tree outside Lidl again and of course some to take home as well.

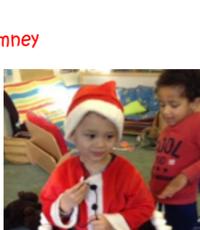
This year the children can make a Reindeer Christmas card by using their hand print then gluing on some wobbly eyes and a lovely red nose.



When Santa got stuck up the Chimney

A few days ago Harry wanted to make a chimney for Santa to get stuck in. When it was finished and dry we used it as a prop for the song "When Santa got stuck up the chimney". Children gathered around the chimney and each had a turn pretending to be Santa as all the others sang the words of the song.

We have also learnt lots of other new rhymes and songs as well.



The Owl and the Star in a very simple Nativity story. The children listened to the story then dressed up as the characters in the book to re enact the story.

Making a Christmas tree decoration

A few weeks ago we made a brief visit to the Secret Garden to collect some sticks but only straight ones to make a Christmas tree shaped decoration.



The children were each given a bag with small hole drilled in which now had a small hole drilled in them. When they had ordered them by length, they threaded them onto a pipe cleaner, not forgetting to add a bamboo spacer in between. This made a lovely natural decoration, shaped like a Christmas tree.

We have also been busy learning how to wrap parcels. This is a great activity to practise using scissors to cut the wrapping paper and learning where to stick the tape to join it together. The children also have to work out how much paper they will need to wrap their box and it's just so much fun!



And we didn't forget to write our letters to Santa!

Making a "candy cane" decoration



We also used threading to make another decoration to hang on our Christmas trees. The children chose 2 colours and threaded the beads alternately onto a pipe cleaner to form a pattern. Then we bent the pipe cleaner over to form a "candy cane" shaped decoration.



It's Party time!



Over the last two days we have been enjoying the festivities. We have eaten party food, played pass the parcel, musical chairs and pin the nose on the reindeer or Santa.



We have had a disco with disco lights and enjoyed our collective reward, a Minion film with some popcorn.

We even had a visit from Father Christmas on Thursday, then Mrs Claus (Jacquie) when Santa couldn't make it for the Friday party.



We all wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

See you back in January 2018

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