

Our sharing diary



3rd January Making a calendar

We began this New Year by making calendars with the children. First they chose what colour card they would like to use then using a marble covered with paint they rolled the marble across the card which had been placed in a tray. They tipped the tray from side to side, keeping the marble moving and making a trail of paint across the card. When all the paint had come off the marble they dropped it back into the pot of paint and chose a different colour to use. They repeated these actions, changing colours as many times as they wished until they felt their picture was finished. When the paint was dry the children put their picture through the laminator then punched 2 holes at the top and threaded a tag through. We talked about the numbers and the months on the calendar tab and why it was useful before fixing it on, using a stapler.

3rd January New collective rewards, "Helping hands"

Our last collective rewards effort was a great success, some children have even asked if they can do it again. This time we have a giant hand to fill with lots of small helping hands. We are asking the children to continue with their efforts at tidy up time but we also will be looking out for children using their hands to be helpful, such as being kind to friends or helping a teacher.

Our reward will be a technology session, we will use a variety of technological toys, remote cars, bee-bot, iPads and computers.



9th January Jolly Phonics

This week we began introducing 'Jolly Phonics' to the children. Each letter of the alphabet has a short rhyme with actions. We are starting with a small group of letters s, a, t, p, i, n, and will be looking closely at each letter, one at a time in more detail. The children joined in with some of the words and drew the letter shapes in the air using their fingers, as they looked at the images on the whiteboard or when using the cards.

9th January Pirates everywhere !



The interest in Pirates began when one of the children was burying objects in the sand. "I'm burying treasure" he told me and added "I'm a pirate..... can I have a pirate outfit?" I got out the box full of pirate costumes and other resources relating to pirates. Soon we had a room full of Pirates! Both boys and girls enjoyed dressing up as pirates.

On one day some children dressed as pirates became quite excitable using their hands and other objects to imitate fighting with swords. On occasions this got a little out of hand and they were asked to stop, some listened but others didn't. Karen told them what happened to pirates that didn't listen..... they had to 'Walk the plank'.

She quickly set up a platform for the pirates to walk over, telling them to watch out for sharks in the water! Some children began to chant "Walk the plank, walk the plank" and everyone joined in, it got very noisy. This game continued for a long time and was extended to the outside area. It was a great distraction from fighting.



Treasure Island, small world play



Katie set up a lovely sensory play activity..... looking for treasure which she had hidden under cooked rice and spaghetti.

The children hunted for gold coins and shiny beads and put them onto the pirate ship, all the time watching out for the sharks.



Making treasure maps

Jessica collected a bag full of treasure



Walking the plank



Building boats, inside or outdoors



18th January

Under the sea



Today the weather is bitterly cold so we are providing lots of indoor activities. We need a new background making for one of our display panels so I suggested that we could use the sponge rollers to paint a "deep blue sea" for some pirate ships. As the children are all still interested in pirates and treasure, we thought we could extend this interest by looking at things that live in the sea. Karen asked if anyone could help paint a background for our display. "It's going to be very big and we have to move the table and shelves" she explained to her volunteers. We all helped to clear the floor area and then we put some newspaper on the floor and finally we were able to put the paper down. The children decided they needed blue paint so I got to work mixing the paint. "We need aprons on" said Ivy. Everyone put on aprons and took a roller to begin painting. I also mixed some green paint suggesting that sometimes the sea looks a little green as well to me.

"What might we see under the sea?" Karen asked.

"Octopuses" shouted James.

"Fishes" thought Mia

"Jellyfish" said Ethan.

"Sharks" replied Finley.

"And don't forget Dolphins "

"Starfish" Everly and Mia H shouted together.

"There might be a treasure chest" Eli added.

"That's a lot of creatures we are going to have to paint for our display" Karen said.

18th January Stay and play session, Technology day



Some of the toys the children are exploring are Bee bot, remote controlled cars, phones, metal detectors, torches, computer, iPad, and the whiteboard.



Using Bee bot, our programmable toy

As well as all this the children help to make a smoothie by chopping up bananas and spooning strawberries into the blender. They count down as it blends up for our creating a delicious drink.

23rd January Using the new workstation

Jacqie has made a workstation in the art area. It has lots of different strings, lace, twines, ribbons and rolls of paper that the children can use for their creations.

Eli explores the workstation using scissors to snip off different lengths of strings. He assembled them on paper using glue and sellotape to join them.

The work station is also about using tools safely. Eli was enthralled with the hole puncher. "What is this Sarah?" Eli asks as he looks over it inspecting it. I tell him and show him what it is and how to use it.

Eli's face registers sheer delight as he noticed he had created holes in the paper. He used lots of different techniques on his creation today.



24th January Collective rewards



Our next collective rewards involves the staff looking for children being 'Busy Bees' or 'Worker Bees'. When we see something amazing such as positive behaviour, being kind, or helpful or again great tidying they will be chosen to put a bee on the honeycomb.

The rewards we are working for this time are, baking with honey, planting spring flowers and weather permitting a woodland walk in Temple Newsam. There has been lots of support for the collective rewards idea from parents.

Fantastic idea. Those rewards sound great! Sara Maloney

24th January Building a rocket, the beginning !

Ethan, Daniel, Mason and Mikey worked together with the boxes to build a rocket. They used all kinds of materials and added them to the rocket and used glue and sellotape to attach them, making sure everything they added was stuck down properly and nothing could fall off. Ethan got the bottles and placed them at the back of the rocket and said "these are the boosters to make it go fast". Daniel finds the different sized boxes and said "We need these chocolates" and adds more boxes to the inside of the rocket. Daniel handed Ethan smaller boxes and said "Put these on back for steps". Daniel adds 2 googly eyes to the front of the rocket and remarked "so everyone can see them, and plane will see everything".



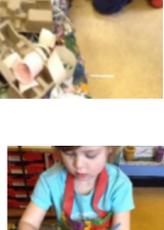
A week later and the children are still adding things to their creation. They have worked together each day, adding more structures and using a variety of materials. Their creation keeps changing and for one child it even became a beehive. The children have used scissors and glue, sticky tape, ribbons and string from the work station and have shown how they can share the resources.



26th January Floating and sinking



Carrying on from our Pirates and Under the Sea theme we are exploring floating and sinking. Karen showed the children a range of objects that would sink or float in a tank of water. She asked them to chose an object in turn and guess if it would sink or float.



1st February Our "Under the Sea" display



Now the children have finished making their rocket creation in the art area we are continuing with our "Under the Sea display", beginning with the sand, pebbles and seaweed.

The children glued sand and brown lentils on some paper to make our sea bed and later added shredded tissue for seaweed.



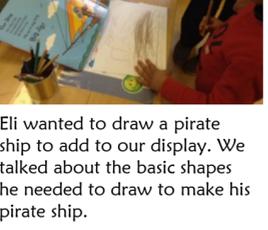
Ralphie chose resources to make his jellyfish



We used reference books as well as information from iPads to look at the creatures that live in the sea and work out how we could make them.



Thomas snipped the edge of the card to make the sharks teeth.



Eli wanted to draw a pirate ship to add to our display. We talked about the basic shapes he needed to draw to make his pirate ship.



Our finished display, the children have been very busy and are very proud of their work.

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