Butterfly Nursery Learning Focus Share for Spring Term 1

A very big welcome back to all the children after the Christmas holidays, especially to the new children who have joined our nursery family!

During the last week before Christmas, the families of our children were invited to join us at the Festive Parent/Carer Workshop. There were many activities on offer, and seasonal games to play. The children were delighted to share their learning space with their families. It allowed them to show their special adults around the areas where they learn and have the time and opportunity to share these activities with them. Thank you to all who were able to attend. It was so lovely to meet you all and hope you enjoyed it as much as your children and we did.





















At our Nursery the sandpit is on the floor allowing the children to physically get in and explore the sand in many different ways.

Sand play can be so important to children's development as it has so many benefits, such as developing the children's hand-eye coordination as well as the muscles in the children's hands which are essential to evolve as our children learn to write. Some of our children have been particularly interested in making marks in the sand recently, showing early mark making skills by making lines and circles. We had lots of fun making them disappear and making the marks again! As it's been cold in recent weeks, the children also enjoyed making snowmen in the sand, showing absolute pride at their creation.



Sand play can also help children to explore mathematical concepts such as capacity and volume through filling and emptying different sized containers. It also supports early science, by adding water into the sand pit children will explore how materials can change in their texture, how wet sand is different from dry, and children can use critical thinking skills to discover whether wet or dry sand is best to mould and build sand structures.



Following on from making marks in the sand, we also enjoyed making marks in ice! The playground was like a winter wonderland in early January, the children used their fingers, sticks and stones to make marks in the ice, some children were making 'big' and 'small' circles and enjoyed comparing sizes.







Taking full advantage of the cold weather, we left a tray of water with Arctic animals in to freeze overnight after some of the children had discovered ice settled in the tyres and were trying to crack it. We provided salt water, sticks, pipettes and rolling pins with this ice tray so the children could fully explore the concept of ice melting and cracking as well as the texture.







The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring this and used language such as melting, frozen, freezing, ice cold. As the ice cracked and melted, we discovered how slippery the ice could really be! Some children demonstrated their imagination as the day went on, using the ice and leaves to make 'cabbage soup'!





Following on from exploring the ice, we provided the children with the opportunity to be Artists and do some ice painting. This allowed them to further explore the texture of the ice in a creative way, whilst also exploring colours. Our curious learners had such fun painting the ice and used language such as 'frosty' and 'freezing' to describe it.



The colder weather has provided some glorious opportunities for children to develop their independence skills as they learn to do their own coats, hats, gloves, shoes etc. We do our utmost to develop those independent skills which will be sure to help them on their way as they learn and play. We do this by ensuring we give children enough time, we do not rush them and offer assistance where needed. The children really worked hard and persevered even when they might have found their coat or gloves tricky and didn't give up! The children displayed such pride when achieving their task and enjoyed giving a high five in response.









