

Noah's Ark News

13 May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been very excited to be a part of a research project about learning in Early Years. A little before Covid hit, Sophie and Gill went to Bath Spa University to find out more about the TAPS Project (Teacher Assessment in Primary Science). Sarah, who leads the project, visited our setting and we helped her develop some learning stories to encourage other settings to see how science can be incorporated meaningfully into play. You can look at a learning story based on a Forest School trip on page 2. We hope to share more of these stories over the coming weeks.



Measuring the depth of a puddle

Now that the weather is a little warmer, we are starting to look at the area around Pre-school. We have a display in the corridor looking at some of the places in and around our buildings and over the next few weeks we will be taking small groups of children to explore the neighbourhood and find some of the places in the pictures. If you want to know anything more about this, please talk to a member of staff.

We have also been practising new skills making cucumber sandwiches as well as learning how to apply the spread, the children concentrated very hard, trying to cut the cucumber into small even pieces.

Don't forget that next Monday, you can join Jane, Sophie and Helen, one of our trustees, to get to know each other over coffee and a pastry. The church are considering starting more parenting groups and we would very much like to know if you think this would be helpful and to hear your ideas about what might work best.

See page 2 for our Makaton sign of the week, which this week is "Outside"



Have a lovely weekend,
The Noah's Ark team

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Context: Outdoor learning	Nursery Age 3-4	Title: Exploring forest school
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Child-led exploration

After a period of rain, the children explored the forest school area in a variety of ways. For example, some children found that it was more slippery when trying to balance on the logs. Others observed that the mud was squelchy and sticky under foot, leading to stickiness testing on a tree. Whilst others looked for bugs.



Some children estimated how deep puddles were in terms of how long a stick they needed to reach the bottom and ask questions about why it rains lots. 'Why do the woods need the rain?'

Possible future provision/next steps

Further opportunities to explore slippery/sticky materials and muddy mark-making. Bug hunts when wet and dry. Exploring and noticing how the environment is very different when dry. Do we still need welly boots? Is there as much mud? Can we make squelchy sounds in the dry?

Learning outcomes include (Birth to 5, The World):

Range 4: Notices detailed features of objects in their environment.

Range 5: Shows care and concern for living things and the environment. Comments and asks questions about aspects of their familiar world/natural world. Developing an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time.

Characteristics of effective learning – Thinking creatively and critically: Making links and noticing patterns in their experience.

Example from Noah's Ark Pre-school, Bristol

Makaton sign of the week

We are all using Makaton to support Children's language and understanding. Our sign of the week is "Outside" For a video showing this sign see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

