Noah's Ark News

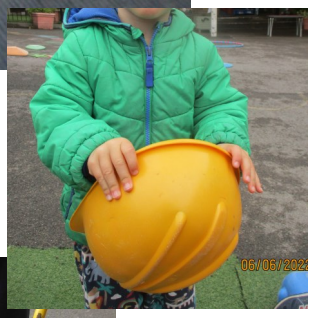
10 June

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to term 6. We hope you had a good break.

This week there has been lots of activity on the subject of construction. From playing with tiny bricks in the Black Mat Area, to giant collaborative constructions in the sandpit, there has been an atmosphere of industry and creativity.

The theme has continued into some of our thinking times. We have been thinking about the different sounds that we can make and including as many sounds as possible into our stories. At least one group incorporated sounds you might hear on a building site into their story. As well as being fun, this helps the children think about the sounds they are making to help with speech and phonetics.



This week, we wanted to share the second of our TAPs stories (Teacher Assessment in Primary Science) which we have developed as part of a Research project at Bath Spa University. See page two for more information about exploring science in different activities. There is more information in the Newsletter form 13 May, which is still available to view on our website. There is a booklet in the hallway with all three stories in it and Sophie and Gill would be very pleased to talk to you about the project if you would like to know more.

Best wishes for the weekend.

The Noah's Ark team

Makaton sign of the week

We are all using Makaton to support Children's language and understanding. Our sign of the week

www.noahsarkps.org.uk
UK Charity no. 1112004
Tel: (0117) 9446229
Email: office@noahsark.org.uk

TAPS Early Science Learning Story

Continuous provision: Sensory table	Nursery Age 2-4	Title: Herb crushing

Child-led exploration
Materials were placed on the sensory table to promote exploration. For example, herbs and spices like rosemary, lavender, thyme or cloves were provided, to be crushed with pestle and mortar or cut with scissors (one or two herbs at a time). Adding salt for extra texture and sound when grinding also worked well.

Children noticed and explored the smells of the different herbs. They had the opportunity to learn new vocabulary such as pestle, mortar, crush, grind and learn a new technique to grind, realising that it was easier to grind when standing up so that they could push down with more force. There were also taught how to 'rub' the rosemary to release its smell.

The children commented on the smell of the herbs and some made links to home by recognising that their parents used herbs at home. Some children learnt to use the mortar and pestles correctly and others were more interested in pulling bits off the herbs and tipping and scooping the salt to make a 'mixture' or 'perfume'.

Possible future provision/next steps
Planting, growing and cutting herbs outdoors. Adding herbs to baking. Make 'perfume' pots. Could add water and see if it changes colour as you add in some berries etc.

Learning outcomes include (Birth to 5, The World):
Range 3: *Explores objects by linking together different approaches: shaking, feeling etc.*
Range 4: *Notices detailed features of objects in their environment.*
Characteristics of effective learning:
Playing and exploring: *Using senses to explore the world around them.*
Thinking creatively and critically: *Making links and noticing patterns in their experience e.g. where else they have seen herbs and spices.*

Example from Noah's Ark Pre-school, Bristol