

Orchard Nursery - Learning Focus Share Spring 4

In nursery we have been learning...



Children have been enjoying the sensory experience of mixing powder paints, some children have been calling them potions and seeing the effects when adding water. We have also been exploring shaving foam, noticing the marks being made and experimenting by adding paint to the shaving foam too.



It was wonderful to have snow on a nursery day. Children were so happy and excited to experience snow in nursery, having the opportunity to share the experience with their friends and with staff. The snow enabled snow exploration, snowball throwing and sledging. We had lots of fun! It was lovely to see children discovering the marks they were leaving in the snow themselves or by using resources. Some children thought about how they could collect the snow and others decided they wanted to paint it. It was lovely to hear about children's previous personal experiences in snow and see the excitement as they shared their stories.

Some children wanted to make a snowman. They were able to independently consider what resources they needed to create their snowman and looked around the garden to find them. Lots of collaboration and teamwork was shown.



Some children noticed that the snow had covered the bird food on the bird table. They were concerned that the birds wouldn't know it was there, it was decided by some of the children that it would be a good idea to put some bird food on top of the snow so the birds could see it and have something to eat. This demonstrated the skills to nurture and look after others.

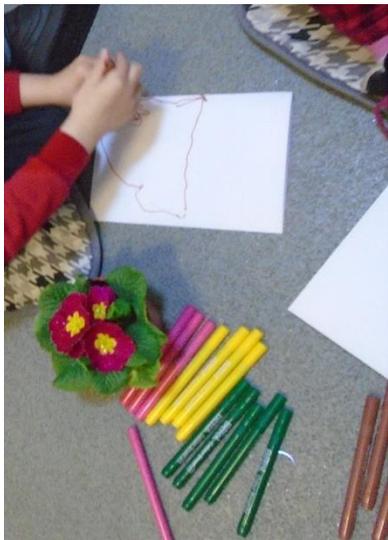
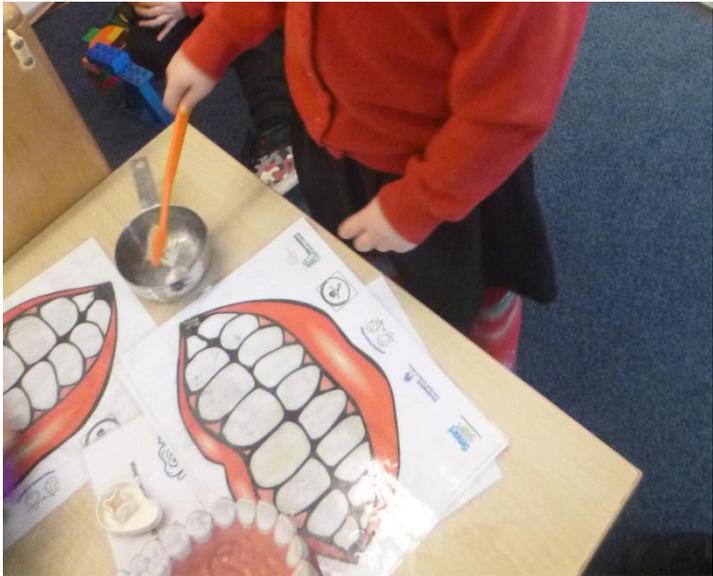
We got to observe the changing state of snow into water and had lots of fun jumping up and down in the puddles that had been created. Children also realised that the slush as the snow melted was a little slippery so they needed to take more care when walking through it. The weather inspired children to create snow pictures.





The children have been extending their exploration of paint mixing by using their colour sponges, different textured rollers and working on big paper collaboratively, enabling those big movements.

Some children have been making visits to the dentist and talking about it on their return. To encourage good oral health habits we have been brushing a big teeth model with adult support and children have been using pens to draw dirt on the laminated pictures of teeth, using the toothbrushes to clean them again.

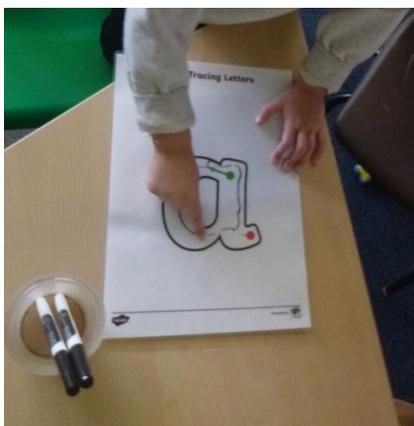


We have been learning about Mothering Sunday and have been discussing with the children what makes them smile about their mummy/grandma/nanny/special person. We looked at flowers and children created their own pictures of the flowers or something special to them. We hope you all had a wonderful Mothering Sunday.



We have been observing the changes in the flowers that we have been looking at and noticing the effects of when we have cut flowers compared to the ones we have in pots. They d not stay in bloom for as long if cut, they cannot grow anymore.

We found a special visitor in our allotment. Children were very excited to look at the frog and the news of its discovering spread throughout nursery super-fast! There were children checking the allotment tyres in hope that it will return and visit us.



Some children have been interested in recognising letters and numerals and wanting to write them. So to help children with the correct formation they have been engaging in tracing templates, particularly liking wiping it off and doing it again.

To extend children's curiosity with magnets, we have set up an investigation station. This gives children further learning opportunities to investigate the properties of a magnet.



Project work is happening daily. Some children have been visiting the garden and talking about the changes they are noticing around them. Spring has officially hit our nursery garden and here are some photographs of what the children have noticed. From new growth of buds, catkins, bugs, flowers, to how it feels to be in the garden, with that warmer weather beginning to shine through at times. Listening and seeing the children's perception and choose of when they feel they need to have their coats on and when they don't is really wonderful to observe.



We are starting to see the use of descriptive language too. Really looking at the details of what the children see in the world around them and sharing them with others.

"It's a bug, it's green and has tiny legs"

"It's an ant, it has a shiny bit at the back of his body"

"Bud is open"

"It's baby leaves"

"I can see a tiny one"



"It's purple in there"

"That bud is purple"





Children have also noticed the different stages of growth of the daffodils.

On closer inspection we found a tiny caterpillar eating one of the daffodil's too.



In project work, some children have been planting some vegetable seeds and making flag labels for them too. They are monitoring their growth and looking after them, making sure they have lots of light and have enough water. We can't wait to see the plants beginning to grow.



Some children have been learning about the minibeasts we may find in our garden such as spiders, ladybirds and caterpillars. Some children are enjoying 'There was an old woman who swallowed a fly' and some others are looking at 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.

Children have shown great engagement when playing with the minibeast small world. They have been identifying the minibeasts and sharing their knowledge with each other and with staff.



Some children are learning about transport, particularly cars. They had a close look at some different models of cars. Children noticed similarities and differences between three staff cars. Children considered the sound, space, colour, wheels and whether the car is electric or petrol. They were surprised that Nicci's car was quieter sound when it was brought onto the playground as it doesn't have an engine. Beeping the horns was a favourite! They were surprised that they could all fit into Carole's van!