



News Story – Summer Term Stay and Play

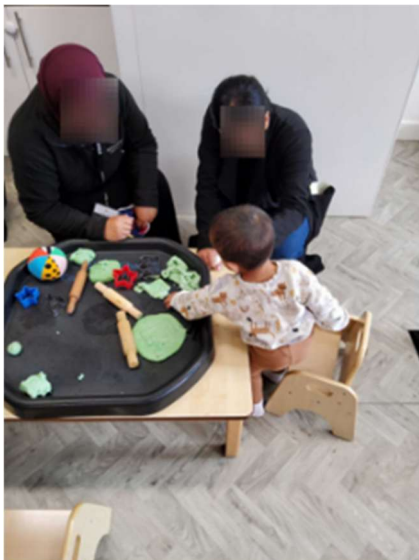
Babies

This week, our babies had a wonderful opportunity to engage with their parents during our Stay and Play session. The children were excited to explore the activities alongside their families and confidently investigated the different areas set up indoors. Outdoors, the babies continued their exploration, enjoying the varied textures in the *Five Little Ducks* tuff tray and splashing happily in the water tray with their parents.



We also gathered for a cosy circle time, where all the babies sat together to enjoy rhymes and story time. The session created a calm, joyful atmosphere, and the babies remained happy and settled for the rest of the day.

These shared experiences between parents and their babies within our nursery environment are incredibly valuable. They help to build the babies' confidence and sense of security in the nursery; while also giving parents a meaningful insight into the environment their babies enjoy each day.





Toddlers

For our toddler Stay and Play session, we prepared a variety of exciting indoor and outdoor activities for families to enjoy together. Indoors, the water tray was filled with blue, glittery water and sea animals for the children to discover. In the sand area, toddlers used scoops and moulds to build their own sandcastles, exploring size language as they compared the little and big sandcastle shapes.

At the mark-making table, we introduced a *Good Deeds Tree*. Children enjoyed drawing their own leaves and adding their good deeds, linking this to our registration discussions about sunnah's.



We also set up a messy tuff tray with soapy water and coloured balls. The children practised counting and colour recognition by placing the correct number of balls into each matching bowl. Nearby, another activity invited them to match coloured cubes to the corresponding colours drawn on the tuff tray. The toddlers were thrilled to explore the activities with their parents and proudly showed them their classroom and favourite toys. We ended the session with a lovely circle time, singing nursery rhymes together before giving each child a stamp to celebrate their fantastic participation throughout the session.





Pre-School

This week, we were delighted to welcome families into the setting for our latest themed session, *Minibeasts and Animals*. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers join us, and the children were incredibly proud to share their learning environment with you.

Across both our indoor and outdoor areas, children engaged in a range of thoughtfully planned activities that supported key areas of learning and development:

Early Science & Exploration: In the curiosity area, children explored the lifecycle of ducklings. Using magnifying glasses, they examined close-up photographs of the hatching process, sparking conversations about growth and change.



Mathematics: Our maths provision included a spider-themed counting challenge. Children used wooden pegs as spider legs, matching quantities to numerals and strengthening early number recognition and problem-solving skills.

Fine Motor Development: The sensory tuff tray became a lively “worm hunt,” where children used tweezers to uncover hidden worms in the mud. Practitioners encouraged mathematical language as children compared sizes and quantities.



Expressive Arts & Design: At the creative table, children used recycled materials, paint, and textured resources to design their own suns and spiders, showcasing imagination and individuality in their artwork.





Physical Development: Outdoors, the ever-popular “Hook-a-Duck” game challenged children’s balance and hand-eye coordination, offering a fun and active learning opportunity.



Sensory Mark-Making: Our outdoor creative station invited children to crush mint and spinach using bowls and sticks, creating natural pigments for mark-making and sensory exploration.



Thank you to all the families who joined us and contributed to such a positive community experience. Your involvement means so much, and the children truly enjoyed sharing their nursery world with you.
