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## News Story – World Rainforest Day

### Toddlers

On Wednesday afternoon, our toddlers enjoyed a rainforest-themed Stay and Play session with their parents and carers.

The children explored a rainforest tuff tray filled with chia seeds, collage materials, and a selection of rainforest animals. They enjoyed experiencing the different textures while talking to the practitioners about the animals that live in the rainforest and their habitats.



The toddlers also created their own rainforest pictures using tissue paper, sugar paper, cellophane, and glue. As they worked, they explored the features of the rainforest, discussing trees, leaves, and which animals belong in this environment.

At the maths table, the children used tweezers to carefully pick up and place pom-poms onto a turtle, developing their counting skills, hand-eye coordination, and fine motor control.

Outside, the toddlers enjoyed gardening with their parents and carers. Together, they dug holes in the soil, planted flowers, and watered them, helping the children learn about caring for plants while enjoying quality time outdoors with their families.

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## Pre-School

Our Stay and Play session for the pre-school group was also inspired by World Rainforest Day. The children and their families enjoyed exploring a range of exciting rainforest-themed activities that had been carefully set up around the room and outside. These experiences encouraged curiosity, imagination, and learning as the children discovered more about rainforest habitats and the animals that live there.



The children particularly enjoyed exploring our rainforest-themed tuff tray. It was filled with real leaves, artificial grass, soil, and sand to create a rainforest habitat. Blue pom-poms and blue tissue paper represented a river, while a variety of rainforest animals encouraged imaginative play and discussions about the rainforest environment. As they explored, one child excitedly said, *"I love swimming in the ocean!"*, making links between the water in the tray and their own experiences.

The children also enjoyed a variety of rainforest-themed activities around the room. In the creative area, they made their own rainforest picture frames using coloured paper and animal pictures, proudly showing their families their finished creations. At the maths table, the children made tigers by counting six black stripes and carefully sticking them onto orange paper. This activity supported both their mathematical understanding and fine motor skills.



In the home corner, the children took part in a child-initiated activity, preparing a snack picnic for the rainforest animals. It was wonderful to see the children and their families spending quality time together, engaging with the activities and creating special memories during our Stay and Play session.