



News Story – STEM Challenges

Toddlers

This week, our Toddlers focused on maths as part of our STEM learning through a range of engaging, hands-on activities.

At the mark-making table, the children developed their fine motor skills by posting colourful matchsticks through the holes of a colander. As they carefully placed each stick into the small openings, they practised counting, recognised and named the different colours, and strengthened their hand-eye coordination. Once the activity was complete, they enjoyed collecting all the matchsticks into bowls before starting again.



At the tuff tray, the toddlers explored coloured ice using lukewarm water. They investigated the difference between hot and cold while identifying the colours of the ice, including red, blue, and yellow. Using a colour-mixing guide, the children experimented with combining colours to create new ones, such as purple. They watched with fascination as the ice gradually melted and the colours blended together, continuing to explore until all of the ice had disappeared.



These exciting STEM experiences encouraged curiosity, mathematical thinking, scientific exploration, and language development while supporting the children's understanding through play.



Pre-School



On Wednesday, our Pre-School children took part in a variety of exciting STEM maths challenges that encouraged exploration, problem-solving, and hands-on learning.

In the home corner, the children used weighing and measuring scales to compare different foods, investigating which items were heavier or lighter.

Outdoors, they compared the sizes of different animals using mathematical language and enjoyed a fun lemon-squeezing activity. Yellow pom-poms became "lemons" as the children dipped them into yellow paint and water before using lemon squeezers to squeeze out the "juice," counting how many lemons they could squeeze.

The children also explored shapes, balance, and size through creative play. Using playdough and lollipop sticks, they constructed their own 3D shapes, developing their understanding of shape and structure. Another activity encouraged them to investigate how a see-saw works by balancing toy animals on each side, introducing early concepts of weight and balance.



Outdoors, the children arranged pebbles and stones from smallest to largest before experimenting with balancing them. These engaging activities supported the development of mathematical vocabulary, ordering, coordination, problem-solving, and early mathematical concepts in a fun and meaningful way.