



News Story – The Great Outdoors: Celebrating Outdoor Learning

Babies

This week in the baby room, we have been focusing on outdoor play and providing a range of activities to support the children's fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. The babies have really enjoyed exploring lots of exciting experiences throughout the week.

We set up flower planting, and the children loved having the opportunity to plant their own flowers and explore the different textures. The babies also enjoyed a Baby Shark tuff tray, filled with rice, Rice Krispies and shells. They had lots of fun exploring the tray and singing *Baby Shark* together.

Another favourite was our Tiny Tim water tray, where we added a wind-up turtle and bubbles. The babies were fascinated by the bubbles and enjoyed popping them while we went through the nursery rhyme.



We also explored flower and scent-making activities, using a variety of flowers for the children to smell, touch and mix. To support their fine motor development, we set up a ball-scooping activity, where the babies used scoops to pick up balls and place them into a tray. This encouraged both hand-eye coordination and concentration.

The children also enjoyed a Five Little Speckled Frogs tuff tray, complete with frogs, lily pads and a small water fountain. They loved exploring the water and acting out the nursery rhyme. To finish the week, we introduced a volcano experiment, which the babies were fascinated by. They watched closely as the volcano erupted and showed lots of excitement and curiosity.





Toddlers

This week the children have been enjoying lots of outdoor play in the beautiful weather, taking part in a variety of exciting activities that supported their creativity, exploration and physical development.

On Monday, we celebrated *International Mud Day*. The children had a wonderful time in the mud kitchen, making lots of imaginative “meals” and exploring the textures of mud. To ensure all children could join in, we also set up a similar activity indoors, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Outdoors, the children took part in shadow art, using wooden blocks to create reflections on paper and colouring in the shapes made by the light.



On Tuesday, the children explored shapes outdoors. They used magnets to draw and trace different shapes, creating their own designs and practising early mathematical skills.

On Wednesday, the children enjoyed washing toy cars in the outdoor water tray. They used bubbles and water to clean the cars, which supported their motor skills and encouraged cooperative play.



On Friday, the children created their own artwork using homemade chalk and paint. They experimented with colours and textures to make their own pictures.

Throughout the week, we also had the balancing beam, stepping stones and bikes available outdoors. The children had lots of fun developing their balance, coordination and confidence while enjoying the lovely weather.





Pre-School

This week, we took full advantage of the beautiful sunny weather by moving our learning and play environments outdoors. The children thoroughly enjoyed the sunshine, even taking their daily snack times together on the picnic benches!

Here is a look at the wonderful learning and developmental activities our children engaged in:

Creative Mud Kitchen: Children engaged in imaginative role-play, using baking trays and kitchen utensils to "cook" and explore culinary concepts.



Young Gardeners: The children showed great responsibility caring for our garden. We used this daily watering routine to discuss the plant life cycle and the vital role of sunlight and water.

Physical Development: Our outdoor apparatus provided fantastic opportunities for physical growth. The children demonstrated excellent climbing, balancing, and hand-eye coordination on the monkey bars, tyres, and balancing beams.





International Mud Day: To celebrate, the children mixed soil and vibrant paints in cups. Using paintbrushes and lollipop sticks, they created unique mark-making art while discussing different textures.



Sensory Exploration: A popular highlight involved hammering paint safely sealed under bubble wrap. The children were fascinated by the containment of the paint and loved exploring the unique textures.

Role-Play: Building on the children's interest in family role-play, we set up an outdoor "laundry" station. Using a tuff tray filled with soapy water, everyone enthusiastically washed and hung up baby clothes to dry.

