



News Story – National Chai Day

Babies

Today, we celebrated Chai Day in the baby room, offering the children a wonderful variety of sensory, imaginative, and social experiences both indoors and outdoors. Each activity was designed to spark curiosity, support fine motor development and encourage communication, sharing and turn-taking.

Indoors, we began with a *Tiger Who Came to Tea* themed tuff tray. Using the storybook and a teddy bear, the babies explored the story through play, enjoying turning the pages and developing their fine motor skills while building an early love for books. We added a tea set, different foods, and tea bags, allowing the children to mix their own pretend tea and engage in imaginative play.



We then enjoyed a lovely tea party, which the babies found especially exciting. This experience encouraged sharing, turn-taking and social interaction as the children explored the different foods and pretended to eat. They enjoyed naming the foods,

helping to build their language skills and introduce new vocabulary.

In the water tray, we added tea bags for the children to explore through touch and smell. The babies were fascinated by the textures and scents, creating a rich sensory experience that encouraged curiosity and investigation.



Outdoors, our Chai Day continued with a transformed mud kitchen, turned into a pretend café. The children loved making their own “tea” using mud and water, mixing, and pouring into cups to support their hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and imaginative play.



We also set up a sensory tea-making activity using mint tea leaves, spoons, and scoops. The babies enjoyed experimenting with the leaves and pretending to make their own tea. In a separate tray, we provided a selection of scented tea bags for the children to explore different smells and textures.

They were captivated by the variety of scents, making this a lovely opportunity to engage their senses and deepen their curiosity.



Toddlers

This week, the toddlers celebrated National Chai Day with a range of exciting, hands-on activities that encouraged exploration, creativity, and meaningful learning. The children were fully engaged as they experimented with different ingredients, created their own chai blends, and practised important social skills such as sharing, caring and using kind words.

Making Our Own Chai – Sensory & Imaginative Play The toddlers enjoyed making their very own chai using a variety of ingredients, including lemon tea bags, English tea bags, cinnamon sticks, cloves and cinnamon powder. They explored the different smells, textures and colours, creating unique blends and experimenting with flavours. This activity supported their sensory development, fine motor skills and early scientific thinking as they mixed, poured and combined ingredients.



As the children worked together, they practised sharing resources, taking turns and helping one another. We spoke about how caring for others and sharing what we have are important Islamic values, and the children reflected on how these small acts of kindness make people feel appreciated.

Role Play Café – Extending Learning Through Imagination The children naturally extended their learning into the home corner, transforming it into a pretend café. One child took on the role of the chai maker, preparing tea and serving it to their friends.



The toddlers practised using their manners, saying Alhamdulillah and JazakAllah as they received and “drank” their tea. This imaginative play supported language development, social interaction and confidence in using Islamic phrases in everyday contexts.



Water Tray Tea Making – Sensory Exploration The fun continued in the water tray, where the children used tea bags to make their own pretend tea. They enjoyed watching the colours spread through the water, squeezing the tea bags and experimenting with pouring.

This activity encouraged curiosity, sensory exploration and fine motor development.



Linking to Islamic Values – Kindness, Gratitude & Generosity Throughout the day, we revisited our Islamic values, focusing on kindness, generosity and gratitude. The children discussed how we should be thankful for the food and drinks Allah provides and remember those who may not have access to basic necessities. During registration, we continued exploring our Sunnah's of the week, especially being thankful, saying Alhamdulillah and sharing with others. We reminded the children that offering chai to someone is a simple but meaningful act of kindness, and that even small gestures can make someone feel valued.



Pre-School

The Chai Kitchen – Aromatic Blends & Creative Recipes The tuff tray transformed into a bustling spice market. The children explored milk, sugar, cinnamon, cardamom, fennel seeds and a variety of tea bags, creating their own custom chai blends. They used their senses to smell, touch and mix ingredients, developing curiosity, fine motor skills and early scientific exploration.



Mud Kitchen Magic – Sensory Play Outdoors The mud kitchen and water play areas offered even more sensory fun. The children explored fresh lemons, limes, and tea bags, noticing the different textures, colours, and scents. They enjoyed squeezing citrus fruits, stirring water, and experimenting with natural materials, strengthening hand-eye coordination and sensory awareness.



Supporting SEN – Inclusive, Multi-Sensory Learning Our SEN learners were fully included through visual, tactile, and sensory experiences. Indoors, children explored character lollipop sticks, tiger masks, and the tiger teddy while staff named and described each character to support recognition and language development.



Outdoors, they enjoyed the messy water tray, smelling different scents, observing colours, and feeling the water on their hands, providing a calming and engaging sensory experience.



Linking to Islamic Values – Kindness, Gratitude & Sharing Throughout the day, we connected our activities to Islamic values, helping children understand that learning and faith go hand in hand. We spoke about, Kindness – sharing our chai and helping friends during activities, Generosity – offering what we have, even something small, to make others feel cared for, Gratitude – saying *Alhamdulillah* for the food and drinks Allah provides and Mindfulness of others – remembering people who may not have access to necessities.

During registration, we revisited our Sunnah's of the week, focusing on being thankful and using Islamic phrases such as *Alhamdulillah* and *JazakAllah*. The children practised these naturally during their role-play tea parties, reinforcing good manners and positive behaviour.