



Newsletter

Ferring Funtime Community Preschool Newsletter for Parents & Children

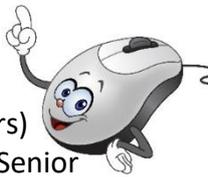
13th May 2020

We hope this newsletter finds our families well and staying safe.

We are pleased that we have been able to stay in contact with you all and you have been sharing the fantastic projects that you have been doing with your children at home.

Naturally, there are times when children lose motivation and it becomes difficult to stay engaged in an activity or an idea. When children are feeling like this, it is best not to put too much pressure on yourselves and your children in terms of learning. So, take a break and have a look at this resource.

https://www.skipforeyeducators.co.uk/booklet/covid19_familybooklet.pdf



This great resource "A Parents Guide to Promoting Early Learning and Development at Home (0-5 years) Supporting Families During the Coronavirus Pandemic", has been created by Debra Laxton. She is the Senior Lecturer in Education and Early Childhood Lead at Chichester University. It supports families by providing engaging Home Learning opportunities, that help children learn through play. It includes top parenting tips, helping children to develop positive personal hygiene routines and managing anxiety. It contains so much good information for families, please take a look. The best time for children to learn is in the morning and remember to keep it fun.

Many families have been sharing garden projects with me. Earlier in the year Debbie E. introduced the children to the RSPB Garden Birdwatch at pre-school and the children enjoyed using binoculars to search for birds. During lockdown I have noticed many more birds coming into our garden and the birdsong seems louder. A sign that even in these strange times our natural world is resilient and keeps turning. Perhaps your child could take a photograph of a bird in your garden or on a walk. We could then display it in our next newsletter.



Another fun project that you and your child might enjoy is collecting natural materials during a nature walk. We enjoy walking along the Ilex with the children, but you could do the same activity in the garden. It is a good idea to provide children with a bag or a small bucket to collect natural materials. Such as stones, leaves, bark, feathers, fir cones, twigs, straw and moss. Later, children describe what they have in their bag, feel the different textures etc.

Lastly, children may want to build a picture with everything they have found, or they can add small world play resources to create environments for dinosaurs, farm animals, etc.

During the summer term we usually introduce Lego Club to the children. It especially promotes fine motor skills. Children practice dexterity as they connect Lego pieces of different shapes and sizes. As this requires different amounts of pressure to assemble, it is a good exercise for little fingers which supports children in being able to control the pressure they apply while writing. It is also a calming activity as the brain focuses on putting things together, rather than a verbal or emotional task. Dads will also enjoy this activity and of course younger children can use Duplo bricks.

If you have any interesting projects going on at home with your child, you may like to email us a photo for the next newsletter. Maybe you have been cooking, used playdough to create something special, shared your favourite books, been on a birdwatch, sang songs, blown bubbles, we would love to see, so please email us your photos.



Returning to Pre-School

Following the government's announcements on the 11th May 2020 about a phased reopening of childcare settings, we would like to ask all parents to complete a short survey online to find out a little bit more about your future childcare needs so we can include this in our planning.

Please be assured that we are using all the government guidance to ensure that when we are able to open, we can ensure we are taking every precaution to protect our staff, children and their families. As such, we will continue to discuss our plans with you and any potential changes we may need to make as a result.

The survey can be found on our website on the COVID-19 page under the parents tab or type the following into your browser: <https://ferringfuntimecommunitypre-school.webs.com/covid-19>

Take Care & Keep Safe
Sandy and the Team.