



Curriculum News - Autumn One 2023

Communication & Language

This half term, we have been concentrating on subject specific vocabulary linked to the routines of the day. The children have learnt or been reminded of language we use for transitions and activities such as, story times, key group and lunch times.

The children have been developing their listening and attention skills, by taking part in activities such as 'Listening Time', delivered in the morning and in the afternoon. Listening Time encourages the children to listen to a range of sounds such as sounds in the environment, instrumental sounds, voice sounds and body percussion. Some of the activities also ask the children to hear letter sounds in words.

We have helped the children to understand key concepts and words linked to our topics on traditional tales, harvest and self-care. In addition to spoken language we use Makaton signs and Cued articulation gestures to create greater understanding. Please ask your key person, if you have any questions about these approaches.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

The children are mostly now settled into the nursery routine and are getting used to the structure of the day. We have begun to discuss the zones of regulation with the children and have gone through some strategies that can help them self-regulate, such as breathing, if they feel challenging emotions. As a staff team, we help develop the children's self-help and self-care skills to promote independence and confidence.

The children are beginning to form friendships with each other, learning how to communicate and negotiate during their play.

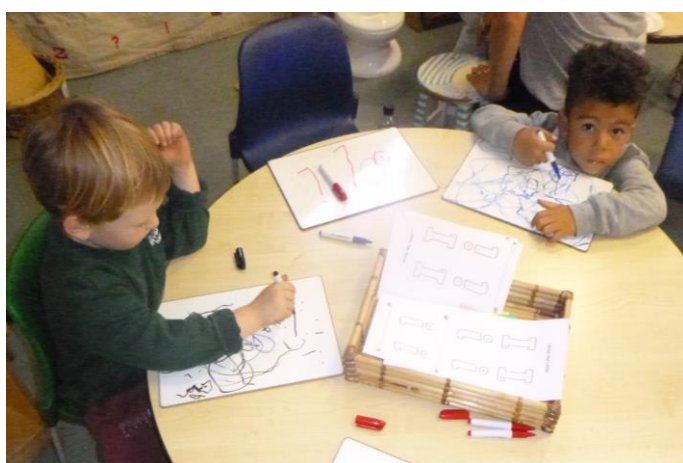
The ZONES of Regulation

Blue Zone Sad Bored Tired Sick	Green Zone Happy Focused Calm Proud	Yellow Zone Worried Frustrated Silly Excited	Red Zone overjoyed/Elated Panicked Angry Terrified

Physical Development

In Physical Development, we have concentrated on establishing daily practises linked to self-care, such as hand washing and going to the toilet. We also discussed different ways we look after our bodies, for example, brushing our teeth and eating a healthy diet.

Whilst we have some returners, most of our children are new to Chelsea Open Air Nursery. We have been supporting all the children to navigate the garden so that they have better spatial awareness. We have had an obstacle course out in the garden, to develop the children's gross motor skills and have also engaged in some yoga.



Literacy

Since the beginning of term, we have been reading Traditional Tales, such as the Three Little Pigs, the Gingerbread Man and Little Red Riding Hood. We have also read information texts about Harvest, 2D shapes and self-care. To celebrate Black History Month, the children have also been reading books by Trish Cooke, Eileen Brown and Ken Wilson Max.

For children who are due to go to Reception in September, we teach a letter sound a week. The children have responded well to this and enjoy having a go at mark making or writing the letter of the week.

All children can take home a book, twice in a term. We hope they have enjoyed spending time sharing their books with you. Please return your reading book, yellow record and book bag on or before the due date, to receive another.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, we have been supporting the children with their counting, paying attention to the number three. This has also been linked to our topic on traditional tales, as they often have three key characters. Towards the end of the half term, we have been focusing on 2D shapes. Creating pictures, structures and looking at our environment to see what shapes we can see around us. The children were able to identify a clock, a square book and rectangles in the window, when we played eye spy in class.



Expressive Arts and Design

The theme for Creative Arts Fortnight, has been performing arts. The children have really loved this!! We have observed lots of singing, dancing, instrument playing and creative exploration. Small world toy characters have also supported the children's role play. This week, we have created a puppet theatre which has brought out lovely instances of play, talk and drama, as the children have enjoyed putting on puppet shows for their teachers and each other.



Understanding the World

We started off the term talking about our families and other important people in our lives. We then moved into learning about Harvest and the Jewish festival of Sukkot. This linked in well and followed on from our topic on self-care and health eating, because we talked about fruit and vegetables. We had a lovely parent visit from an oral health professional, who explained and showed us different ways of keeping our teeth clean and healthy.

The children have been exploring the garden using their senses and enjoyed watering the plants before the change in weather.

