



Programme 2 - Language Development

Introduction

This week talking and listening are highlighted with a story about 'Chinese whispers' and how a simple message can change as it's communicated from person to person. Local pre-school children enjoy a puppet show and the Hurley-Burley man teaches us a cumulative song.

Learning Opportunities

The Arts

- working with a variety of materials;
- creating puppets.

Language Development

- becoming aware of different forms of writing e.g. letter, card, information book, menu, bill;
- learning the importance of listening carefully;
- recalling experiences;
- answering questions;
- listening to stories and songs;
- listening to and identifying animal sounds.

Early Maths

- matching / sorting animals and their young;
- routines;
- looking at size;
- counting legs;
- spots, stripes and patterns.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- respecting animals in the environment;
- considering the feelings of others.

Physical Development

- learning about safety in outdoor play
- using space;
- developing gross motor and manipulative skills.

The World Around Us

- learning about wild animals and mini-beasts;
- investigating and exploring the outdoor environment.

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Suggested Activities

- Set up a Post Office in the imaginative play corner. Include different shaped boxes to wrap and 'post', scales to weigh parcels, envelopes to post and a post box. Get some leaflets or posters from your local Post Office and perhaps arrange a group visit.
- Invite a postperson in to talk to the children about his/her job and to show the uniform and postbag. Talk about the transport s/he uses when delivering letters.
- Make a sorting post-box out of a cardboard box. Use a different colour on each side and make four different letterboxes. Then encourage the children to post different coloured letters in the correct letterboxes. (At the end of the game all the letters need to be sorted again!)
- Use a variety of media to make puppets (Children love making puppets out of anything from socks to envelopes, to teddies to simple pen drawings on their finger tips!) Encourage the children to slip into character and express their ideas and feelings.
- Make a mini-beast display e.g. using plastic beasts that are readily available in toy shops. Have books at hand which show the creatures in their natural habitat.
- Allow the children to use magnifying glasses and bug boxes to explore the outside environment. Talk about what they have seen and found out.
- Compare and contrast mini-beasts with zoo animals. Ask questions such as, Which animal is the biggest,/smallest /fiercest? Which animal is your favourite? Which animal/insect makes a trail and which leaves footprints?
- Practice listening skills outside with the animal game. Tell the children that four or five areas of the playground are different animal homes. Then tell a story where the children have to run to the appropriate animal home when that animal's name is mentioned
- Use musical instruments to replicate animal sounds, from tiny buzzing bees to loud roaring lions. Let the children try making the sounds with their voices.
- Make a simple tape of animal sounds so that the children can listen and identify each animal. (You can make the animal sounds yourself).