



Verwood Day Nursery April newsletter



Well April showers of rain and snow have certainly been with us! Here's hoping May brings some sunny warm days.

Baby and toddler news

This month I'd like to welcome Freya to the baby room and I hope she enjoys her time at nursery as much as her big brother does!

Tracks and trains



The children have had a very keen interest in tracks and trains this month either building them by themselves or helping an adult to do it.

The staff have built on this interest by giving them as many opportunities as possible to use these materials and resources and to encourage their independence in putting it all together.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook to keep up to date with everything we are doing.

Being independent

The staff have been supporting the children in their independence skills of feeding and self-soothing this month.

The children are encouraged to try and use a spoon at mealtimes which can be really tricky to start with!



It is still quicker to use a combination of hands and spoon sometimes!



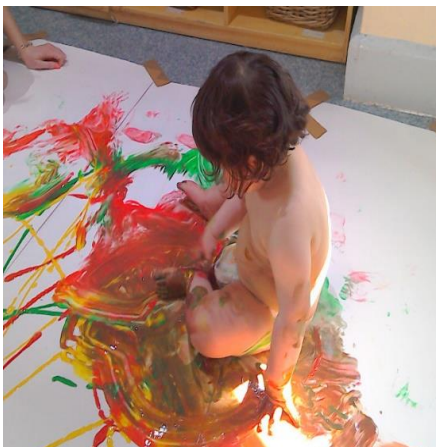
Quite often during their busy day, the children will take themselves off to a quiet area of the room for a lie down or a sleep.

The staff have been encouraging the children to do this by making their comfort toys available to them when they need them and then giving them the opportunity to settle themselves.

Toby shows us all how brilliant he was at getting into the chair and cuddling up to his rabbit before drifting off to sleep!

Making marks

We have also done lots of body painting again this month to explore textures and mark making using our whole bodies.



The Early Years Foundation Stage says that as adults we need 'to encourage babies to make marks and to squeeze and feel media such as paint' and we certainly give them plenty of opportunities to do that!

The children become really fascinated in the marks that they make using the various parts of their bodies or tools such as paint brushes.



Role play

Over the last few weeks we have noticed that the children love to watch and copy what the adults do with our youngest babies. While comforting or feeding a baby the children will quite often find a doll and copy the actions they have seen the staff do.



The staff will continue to support this interest with the children by using the dolls to explore hand washing, teeth cleaning and other self-care skills such as helping to get dressed and looking after themselves within the daily routines.

Two, three and four year old news

This month I'd like to welcome Grace and her family to the nursery. I hope that she is enjoying her time with us and I know she has made lots of new friends already.

Creature teachers

Our oldest children were all very excited to have a visit from The Creature Teachers this month who brought with them a snake, chinchilla, tortoise, millipede and a barn owl.

The children listened nicely as the ladies introduced us to all the animals and we could touch them too if we felt brave enough. We even had the chance to fly the barn owl Echo.



For more pictures please have a look at the album on our Facebook page

Spring planting



Our gardener Ben has been busy in the garden ably assisted by the children.

They have helped to plant a new cherry tree that we were very kindly donated and also some sweetcorn and French bean seeds.



Our potatoes are growing well and the rhubarb is almost ready.

The children will be involved in watering and caring for the seeds as they grow in our greenhouse and then they will help Ben transplant them into the vegetable garden when they are big enough.



Our vegetable garden provides an invaluable lesson to the children about growing and changes over time as well as caring for living things.

Using tools

The children are currently constructing a scarecrow to place in the vegetable garden just like Mr McGregor does in the Peter Rabbit stories. They have carefully been using saws and peelers to prepare the branches ready for construction.

They have loved the opportunity to use the tools and so the staff will be providing more activities to develop this such as wood working using hammers and drills.



Exploring numbers

In a few months' time we will start to say goodbye to our eldest children as they move onto big school. The staff are working hard to get them ready for the next step and in the coming months we will be meeting with parents to discuss the transition to school.

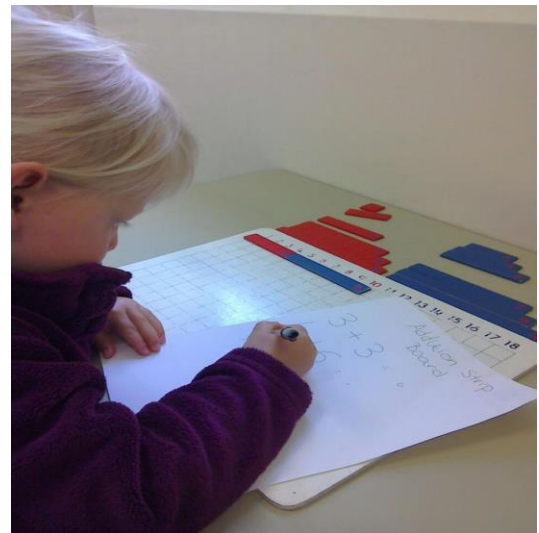
Some of the children are currently fascinated with numbers and number problems, so to encourage this we have provided different activities to further their knowledge and understanding.



Matching number and quantity with counters or superhero emblems.



Using the Montessori addition strips to introduce simple addition and practising our number formation.



Everything we do with the children at this stage is building the foundations for their future learning at school and we know they are all more than ready to move on even though we will all be sad to see them go.



Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to post your own observations onto Tapestry. We are all so grateful that you are able to share these occasions with us and be part of your child's learning journey.

Sainsbury's

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers again this year.



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Please pass on any vouchers to the staff downstairs to put in our collection box. Thank you

Summer menu

Our menus are changing slightly for the summer. Our homemade soups will be replaced with a lighter salad, cold meat and cheese platter. We will be introducing a vegetable lasagne and mid-week tuna pasta dish and a brand new dish to the menu of chicken jambalaya.

Eton mess and tropical Eton mess will replace some of the heavier deserts while the firm favourites of roast dinners and fish pies remain unchanged.

Jack our chef has been working hard to reduce the amount of sugar the children have in their daily meals and now uses natural sugars as much as possible in the cakes that we provide by using fruit such as apples as the base. We have never added salt to any of our meals.

We always welcome any comments or ideas for our menus so please let us know what you think.



Referral reward

Don't forget that our referral reward is to say thank to those parents who recommend friends and colleagues to Verwood Day Nursery. A big thank you to the Rose family who this month have benefited from a £100 referral reward.

To benefit from this reward yourself, you must ask the person you recommend to mention your name at time of enquiry or booking and the new child must be on a full time (51 week contract).

Then after the new child has been in attendance at Verwood Day Nursery for 3 full months, the £100 reward will be credited to your account during the 4th month. Simple!



Coming up next month:

Parent's evenings

We are offering parents evening's appointments to all our baby and toddler parents during the week of the 16th May and our 2 and 3 year olds during the 23rd May.

All parents of those children leaving us this year to move to school will be offered appointments to discuss their transition during June.