

Butterfly Nursery Learning Focus Share Autumn Term 1

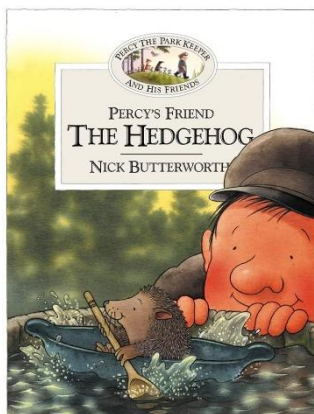
Wow! We can hardly believe it is the end of Autumn 1 already. The children have fully settled into nursery life now and respond to routines well. We are so proud of them! Can we please ask that as the weather gets colder that children come to nursery with named coats and outerwear, thank you!

Autumn leaves are falling down...

We are having so much fun exploring the changes Autumn is bringing to our nursery! The children have been particularly interested in all the acorns falling down. In together time, we used conkers to match number and quantity on a large number line and we thought, why not explore this on a larger scale? So that's exactly what we did! We drew a giant number line and oh my, the learning that took place was wonderful. Children counting out acorns or sticks one by one to match the number they could see as well as using the autumn resources to trace the numbers on the floor, this really builds on fine motor skills as the children pinch and place the sticks and acorns!



We have also been developing our fine motor skills as we carefully mould playdough to create Hedgehogs linking to the story The Hedgehog by Nick Butterworth. The children used their muscles to roll the dough to the shape they wanted before counting how many spikes they wanted to add to their hedgehog. Some children even made families of hedgehogs and used these to role play with!



Scissor skills

In Oak room, some children have been showing a real interest in cutting over the last few weeks and we have been learning which children can hold scissors correctly, who can make snips in paper or who can cut strips of paper during our Together Time sessions.

It has been so wonderful to get to know where each child is on their cutting journey so we can support and challenge them appropriately in our learning landscape.



Following the children's interest in cutting we provided leaves for the children to cut and snip. For added challenge we also provided a variety of lines for the children to practise cutting such as straight, wavy, zig-zag. Nearby practitioners have been supporting children with handling scissors correctly and safely.

What is Together Time?

'Together time' is a time where we come together in our key person groups to do our learning.

During Together Time we learn so much! We explore different topics such as Autumn and Halloween, we learn and practise skills linked to Mathematics and Early Reading and we've recently started doing Write Dance which we look forward to sharing with you in the next Learning Share! The children are getting so used to this routine now that they have settled in to Butterfly's, it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they join in and contribute to our sessions.



Something we have been supporting children with in Butterfly's recently is using mathematical language within their play. Outside, the children have thoroughly enjoyed collecting the various leaves and acorns they find on the ground as they have been exploring the autumnal changes. Using the leaves, they had collected we provided an opportunity for the children to get creative while exploring the size and shape of the leaves they had found.



The children were invited to create their own Leaf Families using stickers to promote fine motor skills. There was lots of discussion around which leaves they were going to choose depending on which family member they wanted to make. Some children chose bigger leaves for adults and smaller leaves for children and babies.



One child was so proud of her work she asked to put it up on the window, lots of children then went on to add their artwork to the window too allowing us to create a mini autumn art gallery! It is so wonderful to celebrate each child's individuality as they take pride in their work!



Adventure time in The Nook...

The children in The Nook love to immerse themselves in sensory play, some favourites areas are water and paint but they have also explored jelly and shaving foam! Sensory play helps the children to develop their fine and gross motor skills, especially as some children explore the sensory play with their whole body! It also supports their cognitive and language development as staff choose specific vocabulary to share with the children such as 'sticky', 'splash' and 'squeeze'.



The team in The Nook have been so proud of how the children have become more confident in exploring the wider learning landscape outside of The Nook with increasing independence.



Outside there has been so much teamwork going on! The children have a real interest in rolling cars, pine cones, conkers and more down the guttering outside to see which are the fastest. Each and every day different groups of children come along and work together to create ramps and travel systems to move their items of choice down. The children have really had to listen to one another and take turns. We have had some fantastic problem-solving skills as some children have recognised the guttering needs to be on a slope rather than level for items to travel effectively to their destination.



Diwali...

During the last week of Autumn 1 we have been learning about and celebrating Diwali during Together Time and within our Learning Landscape. We have been sharing photos, non-fiction books and stories about Diwali and have thoroughly enjoyed exploring Rangoli patterns through loose part play. The children have taken great care trying to copy or create their own intricate patterns using tweezers to place the loose parts for added challenge!



As the week went on, we challenged the children further by providing them with pens to draw their own rangoli patterns either on our new writing boards or on doilies. The children showed such focus as they created their own individual patterns!

We enjoyed some food tasting during snack time, where the children had the opportunity to try samosas and poppadom's. The children used words such as 'hot', 'spicy', 'sticky' and 'sweet' to describe the taste!

Towards the end of the week, we also enjoyed reading the story of Rama and Sita within our nurture sessions.

