

Developing your child's interests



It is really important that parents keep us updated with their child's home interests and what they are doing with their child at home, so we can link to their home learning in the setting. For example, if parents took their child to the zoo at the weekend and they showed an interest in continuing the experience, we can develop their learning through activities here including:

- Caring for small world animals.
- Reading books about zoo animals.
- Making animal patterns using stampers or animal feet.
- Finding out more about animals and their natural habitats.
- Playing animal movement games.
- Making a zoo scene with the Lego.
- Putting animal stencils on the table for the child to use.
- Singing and dancing to animal songs and rhymes.

These activities can then be extended depending on the child's continued interest. For example, they might enjoy:

- Cooking food for wild animals and birds which live outside.
- Setting up a surgery for the small world animals or birds.
- Making animal masks with the children for them to wear when they are singing songs.
- Counting animals and making a number line etc...

Children's interests are a really important part of our curriculum, whether it's a visit to the allotment with grandma, an outing to the shops with mum or playing dinosaur games with a sibling. When children are interested in what they are doing, they are more likely develop their skills and knowledge. This links closely to their learning characteristics – how they learn – and is an important part of our planning.

Please keep us updated – and let us know what the child is doing in any other settings they attend as well – so we can continue to build on their current interests when they are here.

If you have any questions about how we support your child's interests, please ask. Thank you.

Childcare Happy Days
March 2022