

We have received a lot of questions regarding having loose parts in the environment and would like to share the theory behind this:

Loose parts are open-ended and therefore allow children to use their imagination when deciding how to use them, improving creativity.

Loose parts play leads to problem-solving and theoretical reasoning.

Because loose parts do not direct, but allow children to use their own ideas and explore freely, this type of play improves concentration and engagement by igniting curiosity.

Loose parts come in a variety of shapes, sizes and textures which cannot be found in plastic toys. It is therefore necessary for children to have safe access to these items to learn about the world around them in a controlled, risk-managed way.

Schemas: Schemas are patterns of repeated behaviour that children display. They provide insight into how children think and learn as well as what they are interested in. By noticing schematic behaviour we can understand children and support their learning needs more effectively. You may notice different schemas at home without realising. Here are a few examples of how schemas may be portrayed:

Transporting – moving objects around

Trajectory – interest in how objects move and respond, often viewed as throwing

Enclosing – hiding themselves or objects

Rotation – Fascination with things that spin.

Please clearly label all clothing and belongings to prevent mix-ups.

We also need to inform parents that any medication (other than inhalers and epi-pens) must be taken home at the end of each day.

Remember, we access outdoors in all weathers. Please provide suitable clothing and footwear. Outdoors the children have free access to sand, water, mud and other messy learning opportunities. If your child has wellington boots and waterproof trousers, please bring them to nursery daily. Going outdoors increases exposure to good bacteria strains which improves gut health. It also allows sufficient exposure to sunlight so the body can produce vitamin D, a key nutrient in building a strong immune system.

We have extended our breakfast time to 8:30am to allow parents more opportunity to get children here for breakfast. If you want to ensure that your child has breakfast at nursery please try and get them here before then.

**Dates for your diary**

W/C 4th November: new menu begins and will be available on our website

Christmas painting and messy play - 6th December 9am and 1:30pm. Speak to a member of staff for details

Tuesday 24th December – nursery open as normal and then closed until Thursday 2nd January 2020

**Reminders: For obvious security reasons, please could we urge you not to let anyone else into nursery once you have been buzzed in. We know that this may feel impolite but it is highly important that staff only buzz in one person at a time. If someone does hold the door for you please decline and buzz the room yourself.**

Remember to bring your child’s named water bottle each day with fresh water. Studies show that staying hydrated aids concentration, learning and development.

If you haven’t signed up to the parent zone or are unsure how to do so, please speak to our manager Mrs Wilkinson.

Remember to check out our Facebook page for regular updates about what is happening!

We really appreciate the photographs and information you send on Parentzone regarding the activities and learning your child is experiencing at home. This really helps us to build on your child’s interests in order to extend development.

*The Streams*

Newsletter: Autumn/Winter 2019

A river running through a forest

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