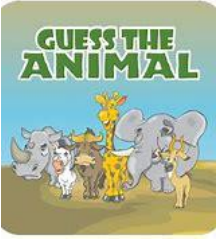


25th January 2021 – Home Learning

It has been lovely to see the photos of your home learning on the EExAT journal and on our Facebook page – thank you for sharing them. This week we have chosen the story ‘Monkey Puzzle’ by Julia Donaldson. Robyn will share it on our Facebook page. You can also watch it on YouTube: [MONKEY PUZZLE- READ ALOUD CHILDREN'S BOOK - YouTube](#)

Monkey Puzzle activity ideas:

<p><u>Monkey Puzzle Song - Makaton:</u> The Monkey Puzzle Song signed with Makaton - YouTube</p> <p>This link will take you to a song about Monkey Puzzle, sung by the author of the story, Julia Donaldson. She also uses Makaton signs throughout the song. We use Makaton a lot at Nursery to help all of the children to develop their communication, language and literacy skills. Why not try and join in with the signs at home? Can you learn the signs for all of the animals?</p> <p>Communication & Language – joining in with action rhymes and songs. Using gestures to communicate meaning.</p> 	<p><u>Feelings</u></p> <p>Talk about how the monkey is feeling in different parts of the story. It is very likely that the children will say ‘happy’ or ‘sad’. Introduce less familiar emotions, e.g. scared, worried, upset, excited, angry. Invite the children to draw faces of different emotions - paper plates or chalking outside can work well for this activity.</p> <p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development – identifying and talking about feelings Expressive Arts and Design – using a range of media to express ideas</p> 
<p><u>Guess Who Riddles</u></p> <p>Describe one of the characters using some of the adjectives in the story. Can the children guess who it is? Can they describe a character for you to guess?</p> <p>Communication and Language – understanding and using descriptive language Understanding the World – noticing and talking about the characteristics of different animals.</p> 	<p><u>Big and Small</u></p> <p>In the story the Monkey meets a range of animals of different sizes. Some are big like the Elephant; others are much smaller like the caterpillars. Collect items from around the house – can the children sort them into big and small? Challenge them to order three or five items from biggest to smallest.</p> <p>Mathematics – sorting and classifying. Ordering items according to their size.</p> 
<p><u>Life Cycle of a Butterfly</u></p> <p>In the story the idea of a life cycle is introduced. Talk about this with your child. Can you think of a create way to represent it together? This could be through drawing, painting, with playdough, writing or any other idea you can come up with 😊</p> <p>Understanding the World – finding out about the world around them Expressive Arts and Design – representing events and ideas using a range of materials.</p> 	<p><u>Music and Movement</u></p> <p>We love these three songs about Monkeys! Play them on YouTube and join in with the actions. They’re great exercise, a lot of fun and even include some Maths learning!</p> <p>Sticky Kids - Funky Monkey - stream video - YouTube The Animal Boogie Barefoot Books Singalong - Bing video Five Little Monkeys Jumping On The Bed - Bing video</p> <p>Physical Development– moving in a variety of ways. Mathematics– counting to five, understanding the concept of one less.</p> 

Other Ideas:

Loose Part Play Portraits

Can you make a portrait of yourself using items from around your house? You could use fruit, toys, pasta – be as creative as you can! Click on the link for some examples!

[loose part play faces - Bing images](#)

Expressive Arts and Design – using a range of media and materials for a purpose

Understanding the World – labelling body parts



Positional Language Treasure Hunt

Hide gems, toys or snacks around the house. Give clues to help the children find the 'treasure'. Start with clues that use on, in and under. If the children are confident extend them with underneath, beneath, next to, beside, between, in front of, behind.

Communication & Language, Mathematical Development – understanding and using positional language



Den Building

Children love making cosy areas to enclose themselves in. Work together to build a den – this could be outside but would work just as well using blankets and duvets inside.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development – working together to achieve a common goal

Characteristics of Effective Learning – making plans, thinking critically, problem solving,



The Most Exciting Place to Read...

We love looking at books and have them in every area of the Nursery. The children love it when we read stories in the garden, in dens or at the top of the climbing frame! Where is your favourite place to share a book? We would love to see your pictures!

Literacy – promoting a love of reading by sharing excitement about books.



Silly S Soup

Collect a large saucepan, a big spoon and a mixture of objects, half of which begin with the 's' sound. Sing (to the tune of Pop goes the Weasel) "I'm making lots of silly soup, I'm making soup that's silly. I'm going to cook it in the fridge, to make it nice and chilly." Encourage the children to mix in the items that begin with the 's' sound.

Communication & Language/ Literacy – hearing and saying the initial sounds in words



Special Time

Tell the children that it is their special time with you. Set a five or ten-minute timer and play, letting the children choose the activity. Give them your undivided attention until the timer goes off – no phones, no television, no quick jobs around the house – it's a lot harder than it sounds but so worthwhile. If possible, special time should be 1:1 – give each child their own special time. The timer finishes special time, rather than the adult. Try to make opportunities for special time every day.

