

Medium Term plans Spring 3 and 4

The Hungry Caterpillar

Humpty Dumpty

14 weeks 04/01/2024- 28/03/2024

The heart of this project is the aspiration to use great books and familiar rhymes to nurture a love of STEM, and STEM topics to nurture a love of reading. The Hungry Caterpillar book was chosen to complement Zoo Lab's December visit and to nurture the children's continued curiosity of the insects and molluscs in our outdoor area; and the Humpty Dumpty rhyme because children are showing a sustained interest in the rhyme and in practitioners' animated interactions during the rendition of the rhyme using the soft toy Humpty Dumpty. We have recently introduced a nursery rhyme to our medium term plans to develop vocabulary, play with alliteration and explore rhyme to engage even our youngest service users.

Our STEM project this term focuses on the story of Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar and the nursery rhyme Humpty Dumpty.

- This project will provide children with an opportunity to better understand the world around them and relate to it through kinaesthetic (hands on) learning experiences. Research suggests that the 3 Hs hands-on (active engagement), heads-on (inquiry based) and hearts-on (interest based) create a playful context in which children can be actively and happily engaged in STEM related inquiry (HZ Inan and T Inan, 2015).
- It will foster a love of stories; encouraging children to memorise retell and act out familiar and traditional stories.
- It may also help children to develop early mathematic and scientific skills, such as asking questions making predictions, testing ideas and making observations.
- It will hopefully nurture problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, decision making, leadership, acceptance of failure, and provide opportunities for children to improvise, collaborate, interact and engage in sustained thinking. This project affords time, space and opportunities to revisit and reflect on experiences. "Appreciating diversity and multiple perspectives enriches ways of thinking, being and understanding" Birth to 5 Matters: Non-statutory guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage, 2021 p.45.



<p>In Personal, Social and Emotional Development children will have an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to develop an awareness of emotional literacy through exploring the feelings and emotions of the different characters in the story and rhyme through visuals and discussion. Practitioners offering vocabulary to describe and label feelings. • Develop emotional literacy and empathy through placing themselves in the characters' shoes, e.g. how might they feel if they tumbled off of the wall? • Develop listening, turn taking, respectfulness and to develop a sense of having and giving others a fair hearing. • Develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community. • Go on a bug hunt in the local community • Develop confidence and self-assurance through participating in small group collaborative activities. • Listen to the story with peers in the black out tent with a torch to create shadow caterpillars. • Plant butterfly and bee friendly flowers seeds to nurture. 	<p>In literacy children will have an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore rhyme and rhythm in repeated refrains; to hear the sounds in individual words • Retell the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar through props, mark making, acting and story mapping. • Engage in extended conversations about the story and its character. • Nurture a love of books and rhymes and to observe practitioners model the importance of handling books with care. • Choose their own story book to share with their family in their home setting through our library book scheme. • Create helicopter stories centred on new adventures for the very hungry caterpillar • Investigate props linked to the story in sensory tuff trays to promote hands on retelling and improvisations of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Humpty Dumpty • Play the Very Hungry Caterpillar Language Steps lotto; make "Silly Soup" using Humpty Dumpty rhymes for example wall/ball, sat/pat, egg/leg • Create nonsense rhymes for example Humpty Bumpy; Humpty Mumpty; Humpty Lumpty etc, tapping out and exploring rhythms, patterns and beats which make up the words. • Play I know a word. "I know a word that rhymes with pear. You might sit on one and it's called a ..." • Sing rhymes such as Flutter by butterfly and there's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf wiggle, wiggle.
<p>In Communication and Language children will have an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to the story of the Very Hungry Caterpillar and understand what is happening through the help of illustrations and props. • Be empowered to ask questions of "why" or "how" or "what if" • Engage in experiences which will help to facilitate their language development and exposure to ambitious vocabulary such as "metamorphosis". • Develop descriptive language. For example describing how a caterpillar might feel "hairy"; "bristly"; "soft"; "stretchy"; "tickly"; "rough"; "spiky"; "smooth"; "knobbly"; "Gnarled". • Clap out the syllables in the repeated refrains and to hear patterns and rhythm in the spoken word. • Use longer sentences and vocabulary and narratives linked to stories. • Recall the sequence of making play dough during the frequent opportunities they are afforded to make it. Sequencing is a vital ingredient both in mathematics and in story telling as simple stories are made up of a beginning a middle and an end. • Engage with Humpty Dumpty and other nursery rhymes. Nursery rhymes are important for language acquisition and helps with speech development. They help children develop auditory skills such as discriminating between sounds; because verses are made up of patterns, they are easily memorised. Repetition of rhymes and stories is good for the brain, teaching how language works and building memory capabilities. Nursery rhymes also develop inference skills, both with encountering new words and in reading comprehension. • Articulate words and modulate voices (practicing pitch, volume and inflection). • Develop mouth and tongue muscles as they recite the rhymes. • Develop listening comprehension. Familiarity with nursery rhymes promotes reading acquisition skills; helping children to detect the phonetic segments of words. 	<p>In Understanding the world children will have an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe a caterpillar's life cycle and compare/contrast it to our stick insects life cycle. • Create butterfly life cycles using pasta. • Create a butterfly feeding station in the forest area. • Observe a Painted Lady caterpillar's metamorphosis first hand (caterpillars to arrive in March 2024).. • Learn about the lifecycle of our caterpillars and stick insects through the exploring non-fiction books, photographs, and through observation. • Learn about simple food chains and introduce vocabulary of predator and prey. Who might like to eat the caterpillar? How does a painted lady caterpillar protect itself from predators? • Learn about camouflage and design a camouflaged outfit for the Hungry Caterpillar to travel around Humpty Dumpty's vegetable patch without being seen. What colours, textures, shapes, and patterns will they use? • Explore butterflies habitats and learn about the hazards they face through engaging in a fun physical game. • Engage in barefoot walks as the story of the hungry caterpillar is brought to life as children crunch through leaves, rice Krispies and tapioca (caterpillar eggs), fruit peel etc. • Create shadow puppets and explore light • Consider what outfit/equipment could prevent Humpty from breaking when falling off of the wall.

<p>In Physical Development children will have an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop pencil control as they map out stories and create story boards • Develop finger dexterity, hand arch development, fine motor and hand-eye-coordination through threading pasta and foam circles on wool to create a caterpillar bracelet. • Learn to handle tools safely • Make a fruit salad • Create their own edible Hungry Caterpillars with a range of fruits and vegetables for snack. • Thread chunky wooden fruit and vegetables on laces. • Create and experiment with a range of movements/dance to represent the caterpillar's journey through the story. • Engage with a sensory tuff tray focusing on the hungry caterpillar and Humpty Dumpty story and rhyme. • Manipulate play dough to create brightly coloured caterpillars and butterflies. 	<p>In Expressive Arts and Design children will have an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a new house for the Hungry Caterpillar using a range of fruit and vegetables and blunt cocktail sticks? How will they join the fruit together? Can they make the house balance without falling over? Can they make the house big enough for the caterpillar? What will happen to the house if the caterpillar eats all the fruit? Creativity is key to STEM • Use their imaginations to adapt the story, create new endings or introduce new characters to the very hungry caterpillar story. • Explore and create using an array of materials including up-cycled materials, construction sets, textiles and ingredients which foster imagination, curiosity, creativity, cognition, critical thinking and experimentation. • Up-cycle materials to create a characters from the story and rhyme • Reflect on the process they have used in their designs with practitioner support. • Create a Very Hungry Caterpillar interactive foyer display • Explore instruments and to discuss which instruments would suit the different sounds in the book and why. For example which instruments to represent eating the apple, crunching the leaf, chewing the sausage? Would the rasp be a good choice to represent the caterpillar's movements? • Create a hand/finger puppet Humpty Dumpty'. • Design their own Hungry Caterpillar café then source resources and set it up • To design and decorate caterpillar masks which value children's agency. • Create kaleidoscope and sun catcher butterflies • Balloon painting Humpty Dumpty and caterpillars to display • Mixed Media Butterfly Collage: Large material sheet shaped like a butterfly for children to decorate with a range of natural loose parts. • Create a colourful lasagne sheet mosaic butterfly.
<p>In Mathematics children will have an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore rudimentary concepts of symmetry and reflection through creating Kaleidoscope-like butterfly wing patterns using natural resources found in wooded areas such as bark, conkers, twigs, lichen, pine cones etc. alongside mirrors and reflective materials. • Make Kruidnoten cookies to represent the segments of the hungry caterpillar's body. Kruidnoten cookies are traditionally associated with SinterKlaas (Saint Nicholas, patron saint of children) and eaten in Belgium and the Netherlands. • Construct a stacked Caterpillar: Children will be challenged to build a vertical caterpillar using bottle caps, buttons, checkers and other small circular resources, balancing googly eyes and/or pipe cleaners (for antenna) on the highest circle. Rulers will be available to measure the caterpillar after each addition to see how high it can grow before it topples over. There will be opportunities to try it with different materials to see how the materials effect the 	<p>How to support your child's learning with this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read stories to your children to foster a love of books and of learning. • Teach your child how to take care of books. • Take time to appreciate nature. • Create a mixed media butterfly collage: Collect different kinds of materials (beads, feathers, buttons, paper, rocks, grass, anything!) and sort them by colour. Draw and colour a butterfly together. Then cover the coloured sections with the various materials of that colour to create a mixed media butterfly collage. For example place the green grass on the green sections of your butterfly. • Build a Book: Recreate your own version of the story by creating your own book. Instead of providing materials, challenge your child to decide which materials they might need to create a book. Your child might choose just fold paper, or your child might wish to experiment with more sophisticated construction ideas. Every idea is valuable. Let your child lead the way!

height of the caterpillar

- Sequence the days of the week through singing the days of the week song.
- Investigate repeating patterns such as plum, orange, plum, orange....? Or more sophisticated patterns such as strawberry, cucumber, apple, strawberry, cucumber ...? Etc and have opportunities to develop their own patterns.
- Engage in a caterpillar counting activity: See how many different things there are to count throughout the book. Count how many foods were eaten. Count how many segments make up the caterpillar. Count how many days he ate before he got into his cocoon.
- Participate in a food sorting activity: the practitioners will draw a Venn diagram and talk about all the food the caterpillar has eaten. The children will be encouraged to sort the foods in different ways: Healthy/Not Healthy, Colourful/Not Colourful, Things I Like/Things I Don't Like, Fruit/Not a Fruit etc.

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The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Humpty Dumpty
12 weeks 04/01/2023- 28/03/2024

References:

3Hs Education: Examining hands-on, Heads-on and hearts-on early childhood science education. HZ Inan and T Inan, pp 1974-1991 published online:02 Jul 2015, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09500693.2015.1060369>

