Grafton Childcare

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The Tiger Who Came to Tea - Monday 4th June - Friday 29th June 2018

Thank You

We would like to thank all of those parents who kindly donated various 'Loose Parts' for us to add to our growing collections:-

Emily & Phoebe - for the Ribbon, Seeds, Shells, Feathers, Tubes, Craft Boxes and Coat Hangers; **Ellyre** - for the kitchen towel tubes; **Arthur & Avery** - for the fir cones; **Rebecca** - for the giant cardboard tubes and **Ella** - for the curtain rings;

A very special thank you to **Emily** for the amazing tin of Tiger Food, just what we needed in our cupboard just in case a Tiger comes to Tea! Your donations are always welcome, thank you.

Communication and Language Development

Listening and Attention; Understanding; Speaking:

Our topic for June is going to be based on the all time classic book, 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr first published way back in 1968!. As always please remember to check out our blog for in depth details of our plans, which we will upload each weekend for the week ahead. www.wordpress.graftonchildcare.com

During this week the children will be listening to, & recalling.The Tiger Who Came to Tea.The doorbell rings just as Sophie and her mummy are sitting down to tea. Who could it possibly be? What they certainly don't expect to see at the door is a big furry, stripy tiger!

To support this classic tale we shall be converting the 'Kids Shed', back into a little kitchen and equipping it with all of the necessary real props should you be expecting your very own Tiger to pop in for tea!

We are collecting any SMALL food containers and boxes which we can use to stock our kitchen cupboards. If you have anything at home which you think may be useful for Sophie's kitchen we would love to recycle them for you, thank you.

Printed on 100% Recycled Paper

4th - 8th June 2018

Speaking

This week we shall be using, The Tiger Who Came to Tea. as inspiration to support developing the children's speaking skills so they will in time flourish and blossom with the skills to express themselves effectively, whilst showing the awareness of their listeners' needs. They will grow in confidence to accurately use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events during our daily 'Circle Time' sessions and whilst engaging in numerous, 'Small World Role-Play' sessions using our Treasure Baskets, Wooden & Plastic Jungle Animals.

Gary has planned some invitations to play with our orange gloop, slime and jungle animals. During all of which they will be given the opportunity to retell the story of The Tiger Who Came to Tea in their own words.

In the front gardens we will be creating Dens (just the thing should you need to hide from a tiger!) with our camouflage netting. Inside of which the children will be enjoying some 'Loose Parts Play'.

Communication and Language Development

Listening and Attention; Understanding; Speaking:

Communication and Language development here at Grafton involves giving our children lots of opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a whole range of situations.

Listening and attention: throughout our children's time at Grafton we will be actively developing their skills so that they are able to listen attentively in a range of situations. The children are given daily opportunities to listen to stories, songs and rhymes. As they become familiar with popular stories linked to our topics they will develop the skills to accurately anticipate some of the key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. They will also be developing the ability to give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in other activities, these are all vital skills for 'school readiness'.

Understanding: as part of the Communication and Language aspect of Understanding we will be supporting the children so that they can start to develop the skills needed to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. So that in time they will be able to confidently answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events. Parents can support their children to develop these skills by remembering to support their children during our daily, 'Circle Time' sessions when the children share their 'Wow Card's, 'Phonics Pots' and any exciting 'News' from home e.g. you may have emailed a photo to Denise of your child setting up their own tea party in readiness should a Tiger Come to Tea. These are all things your child will enjoy talking about and being questioned about by their peers. If they are able to bring in a Photo, Certificate or Artefact which is in some way linked to, The Tiger Who Came to Tea topic, well that would be just wonderful, thank you.

11th - 15th June 2018

Health and Self-care:

We help to reinforce the children's knowledge of the importance for them to maintain good health and the need to engage in lots of regular physical exercise, whilst having a healthy diet, by talking about ways for them to be healthy and safe. We encourage all of the children to manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently. For example by practising our regular throwing and catching games with our range of balls and beanbags your children will be developing the muscles and skills they need to be able to wipe themselves correctly after toileting.

We teach the children a neat trick so that they can put their own coats on themselves once they are two years old. Ask your child to show you 'Grafton's Coat Trick'! We practice lots of 'Finger Gym Activities', Gary and Lara are regularly coming up with cunning new plans, such as learning to correctly hold and use our pencils which helps strengthen and develop the muscles the children will need for a secure pencil grip. This is yet another vital skill for 'school readiness'.

Physical Development

Moving and Handling; Health and Self-care:
We support the children's Physical Development here at Grafton Childcare by providing lots of opportunities for all of our children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. We also strive to help them to understand the importance of physical activity, and why they should try to make healthy choices in relation to food. Our weekly Tatty Bumpkin Yoga Sessions help to reinforce our message.

Moving and Handling:
To support the children to gain good control and co-ordination in large and small movements and to develop their ability to move confidently in a range of ways, whilst safely negotiating spaces. We shall be setting out some of our huge obstacle courses in the playground. But this week they will have a The Tiger Who Came to Tea theme using our Community Playthings Blocks and Planks and our new mini Go Cart Tires as extra materials for our courses.
To support the children's developing ability to handle various pieces of equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing we have planned an assortment of activities using our knifes, to cut up their fruit and lemon squeezers for our fresh fruit smoothies and rollers and garlic presses in some of our Finger Gym activities with our play dough. Please read the planning on our weekly blog for more details of individual activities we hope to complete.

Tatty Bumpkin Yoga Classes Inspired by Children:
The Preschoolers are continuing to enjoy our Summer Term Yoga classes, in June these will now be on a Thursday morning to give another cohort of children a chance to enjoy our weekly sessions. The cost of these classes are 100% covered by parents existing 'Additional Services and Consumables Charges' so there will be no additional fees to pay for those children who will be taking part.

Please remember to send your children to Grafton Childcare in suitable clothing so that they are able to join in fully with all of our physical activities. e.g. No dungarees, or thick and chunky clothing, they need to be able to move freely, thank you.

18th - 22nd June 2018

Stay Play & Chat 7th July

We will be holding an Open Morning on Saturday 7th July between 10.00 am - 12.00 pm.
As in previous years we are offering Parents the opportunity to 'Stay, Play and Chat'. Please feel free to pop along during the morning with your child at any point between 10.00 am - 12.00 pm.
This will be a chance for our **existing parents** to come along to view and explore Grafton's various areas and resources which we have available and learn a little more about, The Curiosity Approach and how we are using it here at Grafton Childcare.
Parent's will also have the opportunity to access their child's Learning Journal and talk to their Key Worker or Buddies, throughout the morning.
Tea , Squash & Cake will be available but sadly no parking as we will have our playground and kid's shed set up for the children to use.
It would be helpful if parents could please return the tear off slip from the letter you were given last week, so we have an idea on numbers which may wish to attend.
We need to know how much cake to bake and Lara, Natasha & Zoe need to know whose Learning Journals they need to set out ready to be enjoyed.
We will have our Community Playthings Water Outlast Water Play System set up for the children and parents to enjoy and explore, so you may wish to bring along a change of clothes for your children!

The Curiosity Approach™ WORKING TOWARDS OUR ACCREDITATION
www.thecuriosityapproach.com

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self-confidence & Self-awareness: Managing Feelings & Behaviour: Making Relationships:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development here at Grafton Childcare involves our helping the children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities. These skills will also develop their 'School Readiness'.
Self-confidence and Self-awareness: We shall be supporting the children so they are able to gain the confidence to try new activities, and say why they like some activities more than others. During our regular 'Circle Time' sessions we support their developing confidence to speak in familiar groups, to talk about their ideas, and give them the confidence to choose the resources they need for their chosen activities. But most importantly we give them the confidence to let us know when they do or don't need help. This week we will be using our Animal Soundtrack Game, Puzzles and Play Dough with our sticks and pebbles, as well as our 'Little Kitchen in the Kid's Shed' providing lots of 'Tea Party' role-play opportunities to support these skills.
Managing Feelings and Behaviour: We will be enjoying of course The Tiger Who Came to Tea and various other Jungle inspired stories from our vast collection to encourage the children to talk about how they and others show feelings, talk about their own and others' behaviour, and its consequences, and know that sometimes some behaviour is unacceptable.
During their time at Grafton Childcare the children are provided with many opportunities to work as part of a small group, and learn to understand and follow rules. Over time they will learn to adjust their behaviour to different situations, and take changes of routine in their stride. For example learning to take turns with some of our pieces of equipment, toys and learning that they need to treat some equipment gently. e.g. This week the children will be using our real china tea sets in their Tea Parties to develop good listening and turn taking skills.

25th - 29th June 2018

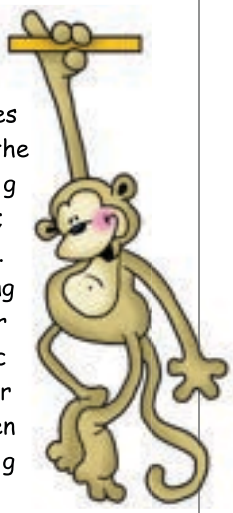
Phonics Pots

The Tiger Who Came to Tea
4th June - 'T' for Tiger
inspired by The Tiger Who came for Tea of Course.
11th June - 'C' for Cakes
inspired by the Cakes eaten
18th June - 'K' for the Kitchen
inspired by the Kitchen in the story
25th June - 'S' for Sophie
inspired by Sophie from Te Tiger Who Came for Tea

Please remember that all items must fit inside your child's Phonics Pot with the lid on, so we do not loose any of your items at Nursery thank you..

Reading

So not surprisingly as our developmental focus this week is on Literacy we will be enjoying lots of opportunities to read some of our Jungle inspired stories including 'Rumble in the Jungle', 'Walking Through the Jungle'; and 'Animal Boogie'. We will be exploring these using our Wooden and Plastic Jungle animals and our beautiful huge Wooden Ark to help bring these stories to life.

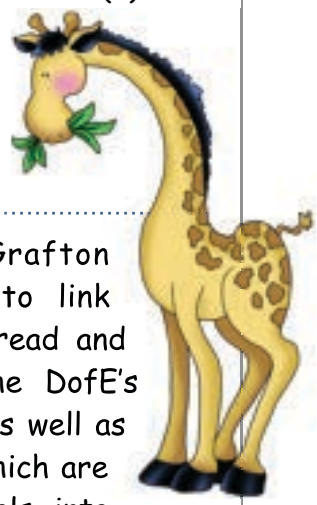


Writing

Which is the second aspect of the Literacy developmental area includes lots of opportunities for the children to take part in mark making with our large chunky stencils and water painting both outside.

We will be noticing and encouraging the marks children make and the meanings that they give to them, such as when a child uses our rollers, brushes and chalk to mark make. As well as talking to the children about the letters that represent the sounds they hear at the beginning of their own names and other familiar words and demonstrating writing so that children can see spelling in action.

Literacy Development



Reading & Writing:

Literacy Development here at Grafton involves encouraging our children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. We use a combination of the DofE's Phases 1 and 2 'Letters and Sounds' as well as the 'Jolly Phonics' systems. Both of which are used by most of the Primary schools into which our children feed. Our children are provided with access to a very wide range of reading materials such as books and poems, to ignite their interest, including our 200 Going Home Book Bags.

Letters and Sounds: Phase 1 falls largely within the Communication and Language and Literacy areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). In particular, it supports linking sounds and letters in the order in which they occur in words, and naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet. It also draws on and promotes other areas of learning described in the (EYFS), particularly Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Creative Development, where, for example, music plays a key part in developing children's language.

We carry out lots of short focused activities with our 2, 3 and 4 year olds which are mainly adult-led with the intention of teaching the important basic elements of the Letters and Sounds programme such as oral segmenting and blending of familiar words. However, we will also draw upon many of the child led activities that are provided here at Grafton. With the aim to embed the Phase 1 adult-led activities in a language-rich provision that serves the best interests of the children by fully recognising their propensity for play based learning and its importance in their development. It follows that Grafton's high quality play activities offer lots of opportunities to enrich the children's language across the (EYFS) and that staff need to be alert to the opportunities afforded for language development through the children's play based learning.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:

Here at Grafton Childcare we are passionate about our environmental ethos and strive to reduce, reuse and recycle where we can, even if it may cost us to do so.

We are great believers in, 'Reusing' resources, toys and equipment. Have you noticed the photos which we have been posting in our blog showing the huge variety of items which we have been purchasing from Charity Shops and car Boots as part of our commitment to reduce the amount of 'plastic pretend products' we are using here?

Plastic items are being slowly replaced and taken to local charity shops. We have replaced all of our plastic tea sets etc from our Role Play areas, they are now stocked with 100% real resources.

The children's level of well-being is intrinsically linked to levels of involvement and a curiosity to learn which link in nicely with, The Curiosity Approach™. The Leuven Well-being and Involvement Scales are really useful for evaluating the relationship between our children and their nursery provision. We have been utilising the scales to ensure we are proving the right environment both emotionally and physically for learning to take place and to be curious with confidence. Seeing the Enjoyment, Vitality and Self-confidence displayed by our children tells us we are on the right track!

It's All Change at Grafton!

Well where do we start, with the sad news that after almost seven years of working here at Grafton Childcare sadly Jade our Senior Nursery Nurse with our babies is moving on to pastures new. She will be joining a large nursery chain in Exeter, in order to gain valuable management experience which will help her with her degree studies.

We are of course both devastated that she is leaving us, but hugely proud of how she has developed and grown into such an amazing and hugely valuable part of our team during her time with us.

Her final day with us will be on Thursday 14th June, we are sure that many of our parents would like to show their appreciation for the outstanding care she has given to their children over the years and are starting a collection of pennies which we will pass onto Jade when she leaves us.

If you would like to contribute, please pass you pennies onto Denise via a sealed envelope, we will present it all to her on the Friday evening when we are taking her out for a leaving bash at the Pizza Cafe.

We are delighted to announce that Zoe has been appointed as our new Senior Nursery Nurse with the babies. We know that she is more than up for the job as she has been trained by Jade for the past six years! So congratulations Zoe, our parents will be able to meet Zoe properly in her new official capacity at our Stay, Play and Chat on the 7th July.

We have created a new post as a Senior Nursery Nurse with our Two Year Olds, to take into account the extra duties which Natasha has been taking on with Literacy and Phonics with her cohort. Well done Natasha, again our parents will be able to meet Natasha properly in her new official capacity at our Stay, Play and Chat on the 7th July.

Lastly we have appointed Keeley as a new full-time Level 3 Nursery Nurse to work with Zoe, Katrina, Jonty and our babies. She has lots of experience and we are sure will soon get the hang of the Grafton practice of high jinks, childish buffoonery and mischievous shenanigans which are always positively encouraged here.

What's it all about!

We were delighted last month to announce that we have embarked on The Curiosity Approach™ accreditation scheme. We are working towards gaining recognition for providing beautiful play spaces and learning opportunities for our children here at Grafton Childcare, we sent out a whole separate newsletter about the ethos behind The Curiosity Approach™ last month and really hope you have managed to find the time to read it, if not we have added a Curiosity Approach page to our website and you can download a copy of the newsletter from their to read again.

Loose Parts

We are on the look out for the following Loose Parts:

Old Keys & Hair Rollers
Coconut Shells & Marbles
Corks & Feathers
Buttons & Shells
Red Milk Bottle Tops
Wooden Clothes Pegs
Stone or Wooden Eggs
Smooth Glass Pebbles
As well as:-
a Pestle & Mortar
any Baskets & Crates
Pearl Necklaces
& Silk Scarves
Large Cardboard Tubes
Lace Doilies & Tablecloths
Any donations are always very gratefully received thank you.

The Curiosity Approach

Hygge

As part of our commitment to achieve The Curiosity Approach™ accreditation we have been thinking and reflecting about how we can bring Hygge into Grafton Childcare.

Hygge (hue-gah) A quality of cosiness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment or well-being (regarded as a defining characteristic of Danish culture). Oxford Dictionary

Hygge fits so well into The Curiosity Approach™ taking joy in the little things, being mindful and grateful, it's about creating a space that promotes emotional well-being, togetherness and friendship. It's a place children and toddlers can feel comfortable to snuggle down or be curious with confidence. A place were we can nurture our amazing children.

Here at Grafton Childcare we are able to use lots of soft furnishings, cushions, blankets and rich fabrics and items the children can wrap themselves up in snuggly. We are currently building up a beautiful collection of hand croqueted blankets which are very popular with our children to snuggle into.

Our 'Cosy Corner' in our playroom is where our little ones are able to retreat into to snuggle and relax with their chums and two dedicated bedrooms with our beautiful BabyBjorn Travel Cots set up for the children to use during their nap times. We follow the individual sleep schedules of each individual child and unlike some we don't expect all of our little ones to sleep at exactly the same time together.

Why not take a look at the display we have put up in the conservatory where we have tried to show you how we create the atmosphere of hygge by transforming Grafton Childcare into a cosy and warm space, a space that feels more like a home than a Day Nursery. Spaces where our youngest children won't feel institutionalised because after all it is the Tupman Family's home as well!

With thanks to, 'The Curiosity Approach™' for allowing us to adapt a snippet which was originally published in the, 'Curious Magazine' about 'Hygge'.

Grafton Childcare's Short Term Topics & Themes
Summer Term (3)

The Tiger Who Came to Tea				
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29
Pirate and Mermaids				
2 July	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
Circus Shenanigans				
30	31	1 August	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
Mon. 27th August - Fri. 31st August Grafton Childcare will be closed for our Summer Holiday and will reopen on Monday 3rd September 2018 for the beginning of our Autumn Term.				
Harry & the Bucket Full of Dinosaurs				
3 September	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
Percy and the Park Keeper				
1 October	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26