

February 2014 Newsletter

Messages from Hafiza (Manager)

As you may already be aware by now, we had an Ofsted inspection on Tuesday 28th January.

The Ofsted inspectors were here from 8.30am to 5pm, inspecting every area of the nursery as well as all the staff. They observed the teaching, learning and play, sat through lunch and snack times and questioned staff as well as students. The two inspectors also had the opportunity to speak to many of our parents.

We would like to thank all the parents who took the time out to give feedback to the inspectors. As usual, your feedback is invaluable.

We will receive the official report and grade very soon, so we will be announcing it as soon as we get it. However, for now, we can say that we did well and Ofsted were pleased with what they had seen. We will update everyone once the official report arrives!

Once again, a big thank you to all the parents and children for all your support!

A very happy birthday to Rafael who will turn 3 this month and Yusuf who will be one years old.



Congratulations to Aklima! She got married on Tuesday 18th February 2014. We wish her well in her new life with her husband. She has been awarded five weeks off for her honeymoon from which four weeks is paid leave as part of her five years employment incentive at Roof Top Nursery. She really deserves this time, as she is a very dedicated and loyal member of our staff team.

Staff at Roof Top Nursery

At Roof Top Nursery, we strive to ensure that we maintain a low staff turnover. We do this by having many incentives to motivate our staff team and support them through complicated times and to accommodate as and when possible.

We ensure all the staff have many opportunities to develop professionally and grow within the nursery. As you all are aware, Aklima has been awarded her five weeks off and to support the staff team and children within the nursery, I have managed to arrange cover for the next 5 weeks by getting our much loved member of staff, Diana, back. We would like to give her a very warm welcome and hope she decides to stay with us for longer.

We hope all parents are happy with this decision and if you have any questions in regards to your child, please be assured that Asma and Diana will be more than happy to answer and accommodate to your request and continue to support your child within Rainbow room.



Roof Top Nursery

Accidents outside the nursery

We like to take this opportunity to raise awareness to our parents that we have a duty to ensure that all children are safeguarded; this means that we follow procedures within the nursery to monitor children from any type of abuse. We need all the parents support to ensure that the safety of the child is paramount.

If any children have accidents within the nursery then it is our duty to inform you as a parent. In return, we have introduced '*An accident outside of the nursery procedure*', which entails parents notifying us of any accidents the child has had outside the nursery.

Some of the benefits of having this procedure are to rule out any miscommunication in terms of how the child got hurt and remove allegations for both parents and staff.

We would kindly request that parents can support us in this matter by filling in a form when your child has an accident outside the nursery.

We would like to thank all the parents who have been supportive in this matter and have been filling in these forms. If you have any questions or would like further information regarding this procedure, I would be more than happy to speak to you.

Workshop for parents

During parent's afternoon on Friday 14th Feb 2014, many parents raised their interest in the training session I held for staff on phonics in January. Some parents have also shown interest in supporting their child at home with the phonics programme that we currently use within the nursery.

I would be more than happy to organise a workshop for parents on Phonics. It would be helpful if parents could email me or fill in our suggestion slip attached to this newsletter if you are interested in attending the workshop along with the days and times, that would best suit you.

I will then try to organise a date and time that best suits most of our parents for the workshop. Also, feel free to suggest any other workshop you would like for us to organise for you.

Many Thanks, Hafiza

We would appreciate if ALL parents can do the following:

- ✓ sign your child in and out daily on the register.
- ✓ close the gate behind you upon entering and leaving the premises.
- ✓ Ensure your child has plenty of nappies and wipes if they are in nappies.
- ✓ Provide plenty of spare clothes for the children that are toilet training
- ✓ Ensure your child has slippers and outdoor shoes at nursery

Play, Learning and Development

Rainbow room

Newcomers

- A warm welcome to Amena, Rita, who have been settling in to Rainbow room.

Settlers

- Rafael has been settling into star room.
- Cormac and Arthur have moved from Sunshine room to Rainbow room

Imaginative development

From observations, Rainbow room practitioners noticed that the children had been showing interest in dollies and pushchairs. To extend on their interest, staff have created a baby area with resources relating to babies such as nappies, wipes, milk bottles, changing mats, coat, bowls and spoon for the children to feed the dolls, pushchairs and clothes. The children and staff engaged in role-play pretending to take the children to the park and being mummies and daddies to support their communication skills, creativity and confidence. This encouraged them to play with familiar objects, take on a role in their play and act out experiences with their peers.



Communication and socialising

The baby area inspired the children to express language during role-play for example:

"Baby did a poo poo now, need to change her" (Amaya)

"My baby she's called baby Rita" (Ayla)

"My baby going to park" (Sylvia)

"Where my baby gone" (Tara)

"My baby is eating" say's Jemima whilst feeding the baby

The children have been busy washing the dollies as part of messy play, which they enjoyed and showed a lot of interest in.

Exploring and using media and materials

The children created a collage of a baby using different coloured paints and crepe paper. Using felt tip pens the children did self-portraits to practice their tripod grips.

Listening and attention skills

Most of the children in Rainbow room bought their baby pictures in as part of the baby theme. The children took turns during circle time to show their baby picture to their peers, which was lovely as the children found it exciting to see themselves as babies.

"That's me" say's Reuben

"Akki look at me" say's Noor

"That's my baby" says Tara whilst looking at the picture.

The staff also used children's old files from Sunshine room for those that did not bring any pictures so they could look and share their picture with others.

Mathematic/physical development

The children took part in a cooking session, which went really well. They made biscuits in the shape of a person. They mixed the biscuit ingredients together enthusiastically with adult supervision. The children then used rolling pins to roll out the biscuit dough, and cut the shape out using the shape cutter. This was a great activity that maintained the children's focus and by the end, they were very proud of making their very own biscuit. The children took the biscuits home to share with their families.

Toilet training

Most of the children have been very keen to use the toilet both at home and the nursery. To support the children, Rainbow room practitioners have been reading books relating to toileting to all the children. Additionally, staff have been using the dollies to carry out role play on the carpet to build the children's understanding and awareness of self care.

To further motivate and support the children, staff have given individual sticker charts to those that are showing an interest in toilet training.

How it works....

The children will get a sticker each time they sit on the toilet.

Once they have a complete row of stickers, they get to take a prize home from the prize box.

Please feel free to speak to the room staff regarding toileting procedures

Cultural celebration

To support the children's learning and understanding of different cultures and celebrations, Rainbow room focused on Chinese New year. They created a display table for the children to explore objects relating to Chinese New Year, such as Chinese clothes, fans, lanterns, red envelopes, Chinese bowls and chopsticks.

Rainbow room had a visitor, Chan lee (who came all the way from china to see the dragon dance in china tower). Chan is a persona doll who was used to enable the children to talk and ask questions. The children were very welcoming and keen to say hello and give her a hug. Chan lee showed the children pictures of dragon dances and how they celebrate it back home. The children took turns looking at the pictures and other Chinese objects she brought from Chinese.

Creative skills



With the Chinese New Year theme, Rainbow room did many creative activities. They made a 3D dragon with junk modelling, coloured crepe papers, glitters, pva glue and glue sticks. The dragon making activity allowed the children to think of ways to use different resources to make the dragon. They chose to make the dragon tail and fire out of coloured paper and the body out of cereal boxes.

The children made Chinese lanterns using bright colour paper, cards and glitter and creating marks on the card

using felt tip pens, which they used to make fans with. They also used pencil colours to make various marks on a horse template

The children also used their senses to explore noodles by playing with the textures, smelling and tasting it.

Love week

The children have been focusing on love week this week. They have set up a display table with objects relating to love week such as books, flowers, cards, heart shapes, candles, and soft toys. This has enabled the children to explore resources at their own time.

During circle time, the children have been listening to stories like 'I love Mummy', and 'I love Daddy'.

- ✓ They have been very busy making a large heart collage using paint and paint brushes which is displayed on the window, they also did hand prints using paint on paper plates for decoration.
- ✓ They made cards for their friends and family using sequins, crepe paper, PVA glue and glue sticks.
- ✓ They made play dough to take home and the children were offered a choice between red and pink paint
- ✓ The children made hearts and flower shape biscuits as part of their interest in cooking. Once the biscuits cooled down, the children decorated their biscuits using toppings of their choice and took it home to share with their family.



What's coming up?

Rainbow room will be focusing on the following activities and themes

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| - Construction | - Hair salon | -Sports Relief |
| - Holi | - Bakery / Pancake Day | -Female carers day. |

Star Room

- ❖ Welcome to Rafael, who has moved from Rainbow room into Star room.
- ❖ Book bags: Every Tuesdays and Thursdays. Every child should have a book bag and a reading record book. Please keep these safe and remember to fill in the reading record books.
- ❖ Show and Tell: 1st week of every month. Please ensure children bring in toys ONLY during the first week of the month and not any other time as this upsets some of the children who do follow this rule.
- ❖ Ensure your child has plenty of spare clothes. Please label clothes
- ❖ Star room have outings every Monday mornings.

Understanding of the world: People and communities



Last month, Star room focused on Chinese New Year. This theme allowed the children to explore creative activities. They made Chinese lanterns out of orange card. Using glue, they stuck different coloured strips of tissue paper and images and dragons.

They also made Chinese fans. The children chose the colours of the card they wanted to make their fans out of and then used different coloured tissue paper to decorate the fans and coloured in the word 'Horse' to represent the year of the horse.

This was further extended by watching a Chinese dragon dance on the computer and imitating the dance moving their body in wavy motions. The children enjoyed watching the Chinese dragon dance and then had an opportunity to draw their own dragons using felt tips pens.



A big Thank you to Zuzu's dad for the gifts he gave to each child in Star room. They all got Chinese money in a special decorative money envelope!

Self-portraits

Star room focused on self-portraits, a topic which stemmed from the children's interests. This is because during free-flow, staff observed that the children were talking about each other's hair and eye colour.

To extend this, the staff planned a self- portrait activity. The children initially looked into mirrors and described their own features.

They then cut out boy/girl templates to add features onto, colour in and cut out pieces of fabric to make up the clothing.



The staff made the activity more challenging by allowing the children to draw body maps on a very large scale, which the children enjoyed. They took turns drawing around their peers on a large paper and then talked about shapes and sizes they can see.

These body templates were cut out for all the children to draw on and colour in. They coloured in their hair, eye colour and skin colour using felt tip pens which also helped them to practise their tripod grips.

This activity encouraged the children to ask questions and understand more about the different body parts and how they work.

Mathematics

To support Star room children's target on mathematical development, they have been looking at shapes and numbers. They watched a video clip of shapes and numbers and then went on the lookout for the shapes they encountered in the video, around their indoor and outdoor environment.

To help them identify some of the shapes, Star room children went on an outing around their local area and park to observe different shapes within the 'real world'. They managed to spot several different shapes along their walk.

For example:

"Cars have round tyres" (Finnbar)

"Window is square" (Holly)

"Door is rectangle" (Jonah)



To extend on their understanding of different shapes in varying forms, Star room children baked biscuits using different shape cutters. They mixed all the ingredients together, helping the staff to measure as they went along.



This way they were able to talk about how much of each ingredient was needed and what numbers to look out for as they weighed the ingredients. Each child rolled a small piece of dough out using a rolling pin and then chose the shapes they wanted to cut it with. Through the baking activity, the children were able to use a variety of tools and equipment to make their biscuits enabling them to use their motor skills.



The videos, observational outing and baking activities supported the children's understanding of shapes and helped them to think critically by enabling them to notice shapes they had learned about within their environment and their everyday experience.

Pirates

Some of the children were role-playing pirate games, so staff extended on their interest by creating a pirate theme for all the children to explore. To help the children get into character, Star room children made pirate hats. They were able to use a range of resources and materials to make their hats. For instance, they use scissors to cut, glue sticks to stick pirate pictures and feathers and felt tip pens to draw.

They also made individual eye patches using card that they coloured in black and attached to an elastic band. Star room enjoyed wearing the eye patch and some of them continued wearing it the whole day.



Keeping in line with the pirate theme, Star room children made treasure maps using the tea bag effect. They got a chance to dip tea bags into water and rubbed it on card to give it an old worn out look. Once it dried, they used felt pens to draw lines to make up a map and an 'x' to mark the location of their treasure!

Once they made their maps, they created their own treasure using gold foil to wrap oranges and small boxes of raisins. These were hidden around the room for the children to find. They were very excited to look for the treasure.

Look out for Star room's pirate display for some of the children's work!

Love week

To celebrate love week, Star room children wanted to make special cards and post it to their loved ones. To make their cards extra special, Star room children went to the local arts and craft shop in the high street to buy their own arts and craft materials.

They bought red tissue paper, small heart stickers, sequins and other resources to stick on their cards. They then went to the post office to buy envelopes and stamps to put their cards in. The children were really excited to choose the resources to make their cards so they can post it home.



Once they returned from their trip to the shops, Star room children cut individual heart cards and decorated it for their parents and carers. Staff folded a piece of card and drew a heart shape and the children then cut along the lines to reveal a heart. They decorated their heart cards with sequins and tissue paper.



They then placed the cards into their envelope, the staff stuck the stamp on and then the children posted their cards in the nearest post box.

Star room children also made heart shape biscuits out of flour, egg, sugar and butter. They each had a turn to pour and mix the ingredients together.

Working towards the Early Years Goals

Alongside all these great topics, Star room have been focusing on children's targets to help them achieve their Early Learning Goals. Star room have many programmes in place to prepare the children for school. This is achieved through the weekly and fortnightly focused activities such as reading together, learning about the sound of the alphabets (phonics programme) language groups, maths programme, learning ICT skills, box of feelings, key group time.

Phonics programme: During circle time, children identify their names on their card, pick it out and put it in the box. The children are encouraged to write their names and sound the letters in their name. They get opportunities to sound letters during story time.

Improving ICT skills: Star room computer is always on to support the children's ongoing ICT interest and development. They use the computer to complete word and number games, watch videos according to the focus activity, and watch certain videos according to the children's interests.

Promoting independence: Star room children are encouraged to make choices wherever possible, such as through the activities they would like to focus on, extend on their interests, the materials and resources they would like to use and choosing the books for their book bags to take home.

They are also encouraged to take responsibility for their belongings, put their toys away, be aware that toys can only be brought in during show and tell and to put these away in their basket for safekeeping.

Self-care is promoted by getting the children to use the toilet and wipe themselves, wash their hands, help themselves to snacks, scrape their plates and bowls and put away their utensils. They are encouraged to tidy up after themselves and put their clothes and shoes on themselves.

Personal and emotional development: the children are encouraged to talk about how they are feeling during circle time and spend time with their key person during lunch, activity time, circle time and through one-to-one sessions during free play.

We hope that parents can support us to work with your child enabling them to reach their early learning goals. If you would like further information on how you can support your child, please speak to your child's key person.

Upcoming topics: making relationships, being friends and the importance of friendship.

Sunshine room

- Ensure your child has plenty of nappies, wipes and spare clothes

Making Relationships

Sunshine room children and staff would like to welcome Dexter. He is doing well and the children have been welcoming towards Dexter by interacting together during play.

Sunshine room children continue to bond well with Shaheena, Sumiya and Guler; the children have settled in well and are happy and confident, they are capable of approaching any of the practitioners for support and guidance.

Sunshine room children are also doing well in terms of making friendships and playing alongside each other within the room. Practitioners provide support with creating bonds by helping children to interact together, providing circle time sessions and group led activities in which they can participate in.

Physical Development

During this term, Sunshine room have seen many of the crawling babies show interest in standing up by holding onto large objects and really trying to take a few steps with adult support. Practitioners continue to focus on their physical strengths by providing various push along toys that help children to build their confidence and move a step closer to achieving a new goal.

Farm animals

Sunshine room children have been looking at farm animals because they have been showing interest in the 'Cows in the Kitchen' storybook. They have been expressing themselves through body gestures and different animal sounds.

The children painted yellow ducks and pink pigs using paintbrushes and they also painted a large brown and black cow.

Sunshine room practitioners continued to encourage good use of language during these activities by saying the animal names and giving the children a chance to repeat the animal names and colours of the animals. For example, 'pink pig', 'yellow duck'.

Sunshine room children also made individual sheep and hens using different textures materials to help them explore various textures.

For instance, they made sheep using cotton wool to stick to their sheep template. They did this by spreading glue with their glue sticks thereby supporting their pincer and palmer grasp and then stuck the cotton wool on. They really enjoyed pulling the cotton wool apart and sticking it on.



Sunshine room children did another sticking activity to make their hens. As with the sheep, they spread glue but this time used different coloured fabric and feathers to create the body of the hens.

The farm animal theme continued during their free-play. The children had farm animals to play with in a farm house, which Risky-Blue, Ezra and Cormac enjoyed playing with.

Farm animals were also part of the children's messy play. The animals were placed in a big black tray with white foam for the children to play and explore.



They also played with the fabric animals. The fabric animals had zips on them, and Cormac, Thea, Risky-Blue and Axl all attempted to open and close the zips. Cormac organised all the animals in neat straight lines along the floor.

Sunshine room also linked the farm animal theme to their circle time activity. They have been trying to name and point at the animals from Sunshine room display wall and have even been pointing at the wall to indicate that they would like to sing 'Oh McDonald' song.

For example, Thea pointed at the farm animal display and said 'pig' and Shey pointed at it and said 'look cow'.

Chinese New Year

This month, Sunshine have been taking part in Chinese new year celebrations. To celebrate the year of the horse, they did a sticking activity. They used small pieces of square fabric to stick to the horse template to create a texture similar to that of a horse.



Sunshine room children also made Chinese lanterns and origami fans by sticking on pieces of coloured tissue paper and shiny paper.

They also made Chinese dragons as part of the Chinese New Year theme. They made these out of paper plates and sticks and then spread glue on the plates to stick colourful strips of tissue paper and glitter.

Upcoming topics

This month Sunshine room children will making pancakes, taking part in Holi and St Patrick's Day activities and exploring vegetables.

