

Huttoft Nursery Learning Through Play
January 2018

<p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p> 	<p>During small group Circle Times we will be sharing the story 'One Snowy Night' from the Percy The Park Keeper series by Nick Butterworth. Percy the Park Keeper is a friendly, cheerful character and at the beginning of <i>One Snowy Night</i> we are told that he shares his lunch with the animals that live in the park. Then, when the snow falls, he even shares his home with them. He is kind and caring. We will use the story as a basis to talk about what it means to be kind and caring, and how sharing makes us feel. It can be very hard to share sometimes and I wonder if at home we are willing to share our new Christmas toys?</p>
<p>Communication and Language (Listening and Attention, Understanding and Speaking)</p>	<p>In small groups we will be telling each other all about the presents we received from Father Christmas. Inside Percy's cosy Story Corner we can take turns snuggling under a warm blanket, pretending to enjoy a cup of hot cocoa with our friends whilst using our beautiful story basket puppets to act out the tale and re-tell our version of the Percy's story.</p>
<p>Physical Development</p> 	<p>Each day we will continue to take part in Dough Disco - rolling, flattening, squeezing and squashing the dough in time to music. This activity helps to strengthen children's fine motor muscles to enable them to develop their pencil grip which in turn will help to develop their writing skills. The children have become very good at listening and following directions during our daily PE time in the school hall. So this term we are going to have lots of fun playing with our giant parachute! We will have to work together to lift the parachute up as high as we can AND changing direction is VERY tricky! We are terribly excited!</p>
<p>Literacy – early reading and writing skills</p>	<p>We will continue to explore the letters and sequence of letters in our own name, paying particular attention to the first letter – its shape and sound. At the end of the month the children's self – registration cards will be replaced with their name only.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>This month we are to become shape detectives as we encourage the children to notice and talk about 2D and 3D shapes in the environment. We will be 'Going on a Shape Hunt', taking photographs of our finds and putting them together to and make our very own book. We will be using mathematical names for shapes eg circle, triangle, square, oblong, cylinder and cube. Indoors we will be rolling and shaping our special 'chocolate' play dough to make pretend chocolates – what shape is the caramel chocolate? As well as junk modelling.</p>
<p>Understanding the World</p> 	<p>Percy has loaned us some of his special information books so that we can learn all about woodland animals and in particular how to care for them. We will talk about how the birds cannot find enough to eat during the winter. We will be making some special bird cake to put out for the birds in the Nursery garden.</p>
<p>Expressive Arts and Design</p>	<p>In our workshop as well as making models with our re cycled materials. We will be developing as well as learning new techniques to create a wonderful 3D Winter Wonderland in our Art Gallery.</p>

Fun things to do at home to support your child's learning:

- Have lots of fun playing 'I spy' games together – this will help your child to concentrate on and listen to sounds at the beginning of words. You could have fun collecting objects from around the house that begin with the first sound in their name or with 'mmm' for mummy.
- Have lots of fun being 'Shape Detectives' together – how many circles can you find in the supermarket? How many triangles can you spot on your drive to Nursery? Remember that when we stretch a square we make an oblong. (Both squares and oblongs are rectangles!)
- Have a go at Dough Disco at home - you have nothing to lose but all to gain .Your child will develop the muscles in their hands to help them with their pencil grip which will help them with their writing skills. Five minutes a day will help to give your child the skills that they need to become happy and successful writers. Give it a go and have some fun!

Toys from home

- We understand the need for some children to bring their comforter in to Nursery but please can you help us by discouraging your child from bringing in toys from home. When they do so they are often a cause of disagreements and misunderstanding between children and furthermore may get lost or broken. Thank you ☺

Outdoor Clothing and Lunch Bags

- Please would you ensure that each item is clearly marked with your child's name. A special key ring/tag on your child's lunch bag and/or reading packet helps your child easily identify their own.