

ILCHESTER EARLY YEARS NEWSLETTER

27th March 2026



“Children learn by doing, and doing is noisy, untidy, messy and unpredictable.”

~Maggie Dent



Tiggywinkles

This week in Tiggywinkles, the children explored a variety of engaging activities with an under the sea theme. They enjoyed small world play with sea creatures, creating their own imaginative stories and developing their language and communication skills. The children developed their early maths skills through activities such as exploring shapes, counting fish and recognising patterns. Practical activities helped the children to build confidence in counting and number recognition in a fun and meaningful way. Creative activities allowed the children to express themselves using a range of materials. They enjoyed making rainbow fish, jellyfish and other sea-themed creations, as well as exploring colour and texture through painting and sensory play. Fine motor skills were supported through activities such as dough disco, threading, using tweezers and ear bud painting. These activities helped to strengthen hand muscles and improve coordination, supporting early writing skills. Throughout the week the children also took part in group activities, outdoor play and forest school sessions, supporting their physical development, teamwork and independence. The children showed great enthusiasm and curiosity as they explored and learned through play.

Nutkins

This week in Nutkins, the children have been exploring the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. They enjoyed listening to the story and joining in with familiar parts, helping to develop their confidence in communication and storytelling.

The children took part in a range of activities to support their early maths skills, including recognising numbers, counting and sequencing events from the story. These activities helped the children to understand order and build confidence in using numbers in a fun and meaningful way. Fine motor skills were developed through a variety of creative activities, where the children explored different materials and tools to create their own work. These experiences helped to strengthen hand muscles and improve coordination. The children also enjoyed spending time outdoors, taking part in parachute games in the garden. These activities supported their physical development, teamwork and listening skills, while also providing lots of fun and opportunities to work together. Throughout the week the children showed great enthusiasm and engagement, building confidence, independence and a love of learning through play.

Puddleducks

This week in Puddleducks, the children have been exploring a range of exciting activities based around dragons and imaginative play. They showed great enthusiasm when taking part in role play, pretending to be doctors, rescuing animals and caring for dragons; helping to develop their communication, social skills and creativity. The children engaged in a variety of practical experiences that supported their understanding of the world, such as filling doctor's bags, delivering "medicine" and exploring different textures through water play, bubbles and sensory activities. These hands-on experiences encouraged curiosity and exploration. Physical development was supported through activities such as tunnel play, building spaces and movement games, helping the children to develop their coordination, balance and confidence. The children also enjoyed creative activities including making potions, painting and exploring different materials. Fine motor skills were developed through mark making, using tools such as pipettes and tweezers, and engaging in detailed play. Throughout the week the children continued to build their independence, particularly with everyday tasks such as putting on their coats, and showed confidence in exploring new activities and working alongside their friends.

Toys at Pre-School

To help prepare the children for their transition to school, we kindly ask that toys are not brought into preschool from home. This helps the children focus on the activities and resources available in the setting and supports them in developing independence and responsibility, similar to expectations in school.

Toilet Training

Toilet training can be very hard and stressful for many families. That's why we always signpost to ERIC for advice on how to manage toilet training and the best tips and tricks.

<https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/>



Forest School

Please remember to bring in wellies and waterproof clothing for your child on Mondays for Forest School. This will allow them to stay comfortable and fully enjoy exploring, playing and learning outdoors in all weathers.

Please don't put clothing in plastic bags, they are a suffocation hazard. Please only use your child's usual bag or a drawstring bag



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