

## Old Felixstowe Nursery Grant report 2024



We were absolutely delighted to receive the news that we had been awarded £720 to support the nursery. Our areas of focus for the funds was roleplay, understanding of the world we live in and life skills as we were lacking in resources in this area.

With the right resources we are able to cover so many learning outcomes and offer some really fun learning opportunities to our children through roleplay/small world play.

We chose to concentrate some of the funds on purchasing small world figures of 'children and families around the world' and 'people with differing abilities'. We would like to demonstrate to the children the differences that make us all unique, to promote equality and an understanding of these differences and to lay the foundation of teaching the children to be accepting and inclusive through their play. Small world play with these figures allows the children to act out and experience the variety of different figures through their play and gain an age appropriate understanding and knowledge of the differences such as a persons heritage. Small world figures are such a great resource as they are always popular with the children so its easy to get them involved and also can be used in so many different ways across the nursery.

As a setting we like to take the children out for small trips such as to the park, to the letter box to send postcards and to explore our local area. We felt that road safety was a great skill to instil in our children from a young age and forms the starting blocks for being safe outdoors as they grow and gain more independence. We purchased a '23 piece road safety activity set' so the children could enjoy a realistic roleplay experience of a road set up. This gives us so many opportunities for learning and allows us to begin the very early stages of teaching road safety, what certain simple signs/road markings mean and how to manage situations involving the use of roads. All of this can be done through play so the children don't even realise how much they are learning. This has been seen to build confidence in the children when exploring the outside environment and with continued use will further their knowledge greatly.

One of our purchases was a '6 pack of people who help us tabards' which are incredible. At OFN we feel very strongly about teaching the theme of people who help us to the children. It is hugely valuable to the children that they know who are 'people who help us', how to recognise them, where to find them, what they help with etc. Having the tabards allows the children to become a person who helps such as a policeman, a paramedic etc and through dressing up and adding to this additional play items they may use in their role such as handcuffs, bandages, torch etc they can act out their role. Physically acting something out embeds the info with a memory therefore making it harder for the children to forget. Dressing up also comes hand in hand with lengthy

and in-depth role play where the children really submerge themselves into the role they are playing and with input from adults can be elevated to a level where they are learning so much all through a simple game of dress up.

One of our favourite purchases was an 'outside-inside den making kit'. The play and learning outcomes that can stem from this one resource are endless. Our main reason for wishing to purchase this was how many skills we could build on with just one resource! In this set comes all the individual pieces you need to build a den and best of all they are all completely child friendly. Building this den together as a small group promotes not only independence but also team work. Whilst building the Den the children came across issues where certain pieces wouldn't connect so they had to problem solve to get it pieced together correctly. It also encourages perseverance as they needed to keep trying until they found the correct piece they needed. In doing this, to keep it fair, they were asked to take turns in testing the pieces which can be really tricky when you're little. Once they have exercised all these skills in the building of the den they have quite a sensory experience choosing from the mix of materials, floors mats and hanging decorations so they could then decorate the den to suit what type of den it was going to be. The children can use this for a huge variety of different games and roleplay and can even also double as a sensory den. We can already tell that this resource will be an asset to the nursery and will support the children's growth in so many areas of their learning.

Our last purchase was a set comprising of two play mobile smart phones, a roleplay laptop and a very realistic play tablet. Again the focus area for this will be role play. In setting we already have certain role play set up for different jobs and we hoped to add a office role as this is quite a common role seen among parents and also can be a work from home position so children may be able to relate seeing their parents work on a laptop. We wanted children to gain a age appropriate insight into different jobs and what they may look like. We use a resource provider called Twinkl to print off resources and we change an area in our nursery to look like a particular job. We feel this is a really important thing for children to experience and gain a understanding of.

We, as a setting, would like to thank Felixstowe Town Council for giving us the opportunity to purchase these items. As a charity it can be tricky to raise the funds each year to bring new things into nursery and fulfil that area with new resources so without local support we wouldn't be able to do this so thank you from all at OFN.