Banksia Day Book
Thursday 25th of July 2024

Supporting pattern recognition through nursery rhymes

In today's learning experience, we explored the concept of patterns: patterns are a precursor mathematics concept that includes rhythm, sequence, and regularity, which enable children to make predictions. Sam began the experience by introducing the concept of patterns, engaging the children by asking them to identify patterns in their everyday lives. She asked questions like, "What do you do at night, and what do you do in the morning?" This prompted the children to recognize the daily pattern of going to sleep and waking up, establishing a connection between their routines and the concept of patterns. Sam then incorporated nursery rhymes and songs into the experience.

She sang 'Five Little Chicken' and 'Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed. During each song, she paused at key moments to ask the children if they could recognize the pattern within the lyrics. For instance, she would sing a verse and then ask, "What happens next?" This encouraged the children to predict the following events based on the established pattern in the song.

Nature play at Mulligans Flat

The Little Rangers headed out to Mulligans Flat, starting our adventure at a familiar gate, passing our bags through and climbing through the whole. We checked out where we were on the map, before we heard some frogs nearby. We walked towards a little creek in hopes of hearing more or spotting some, "there's no lily pads" explained Ada, as we accepted there were no frogs to see.

Although we didn't see any, the creek did bring us to an opening in a little forest with endless possibilities! Ada, Iggy, Anita, Jonathan and Matilda helped set boundaries, before we had a safety discussion about a climbing tree we wanted to play in. Ada pointed out it had a hollow on a branch, as well as a hole underneath it that something might live in.

We agreed to keep our eyes and ears open, as well as not to put anything in the holes.
We then filled our bellies with some lunch to ensure we had enough energy to explore! Our first play area was the tree, which the group used their leg and stomach muscles to get onto. They each had a different spot in mind to sit or climb to, and many challenged themselves today to climb higher, or jump from the tree.

Nearby there was a small tree stump that caught Leo J, Jonathan, Isaac and Matilda's eyes. They each used a long stick to whack the stump with. They made sure to give each other space. This allowed the children to explore and fill play needs they were seeking in a safe space. Another activity being offered was to use a whittler, which Hannah explained was like a potato/carrot peeler. Iggy, Ada and Anita each had a turn, using a fresh stick, peeling away from their bodies.

We then moved as a group over to a dip which the children thoroughly enjoyed running through. On one side of the dip was the forest, and the other was an array of rocks by the creek. Jonathan spotted a rock stuck in the ground, "look, Ranger Matt told us about this! It's like a volcano rock". Jonathan, Leo J and Isaac spent a long time collecting rocks and throwing them in the creek. Isaac picked up a triangular shaped rock, "Hannah look, pizza rock!" he said laughing,

Later Isaac picked up another one saying, "Look it's a bus. It's a minibus!". Leo J was determined to uncover the biggest rocks. The three later revisited this area, making a pile of rocks into an 'ants hill'. Anita experimented with rubbing two rocks together, "I'm making them white".

Whilst half the group enjoyed the rocks, Ada, Matilda and Iggy engaged in some roleplay, pretending to be 'Mummy, Daddy and the Hulk'. They used the tree as their home!

Before we left, Anita was enjoying some time in the tree, "It's quite nice to be here. I like listening to nature". We heard the frogs, some birds and listening to the wind rustling the trees.

As the weather started to get a little windier, we decided it was time to head back to Heritage for the afternoon. We piled back through the fence and onto the bus.

More from today