

Rotherham Early Years Pupil Premium initiative – Developing parental partnership to support learning and development.



Night time reading bear

Introduction

Pollywiggles Day Nursery, Treeton would like to introduce Oscar the Night time reading bear and his friends Ella May (45months) and her mum Olivia, Tim (48months) and his mum and dad Janet and Adam. The nursery practitioners held a team meeting to evaluate how we support and encourage strong partnership working with our families and the sharing of their children's development and progress. We found that as a setting we were developing these partnerships through daily verbal communications and parent snapshots that staff wrote from parent conversations. However we identified we needed to do more to involve our parents and families in sharing their children's progress together in a two way conversation.

What we did...



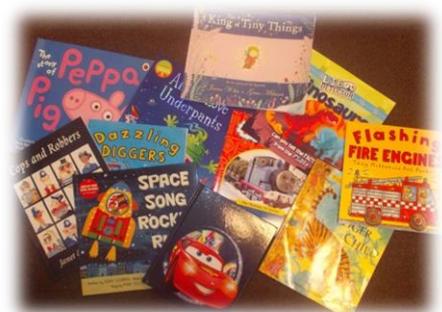
We had planned to hold a parent book share session to encourage families to spend time in the morning choosing books to read with their children; bringing their own books along to read and listen to books being shared by practitioners. On reflection we found that these days were not successful as many parents and families could not get the time off work. The nursery team discussed how we could overcome this and find a more suitable time for parents to share books and stories with their children, therefore we created the 'Night time reading bear'.

Night time reading bear.....who is he?

We purchased 2 bears with our Early Years Pupil Premium funding (approximately £10), dressed in their pyjamas and with their own tooth brush they travel around in the nursery book bag! Children and families are encouraged to select a book to take home; there is also a diary for parents and children to record their experiences with 'Night time reading bear'.

'Night time bear' joins our pre-school story time during the week, he sits with the children and shares a book; 'Peace at last' by Jill Murphy is his favourite. The children become very excited about taking bedtime bear and a book home to share with their families.

Children's interests are a huge factor in encouraging children to take part in activities therefore we encourage families and children to choose a book that they are interested in, for example 'Aliens love underpants' for children who are interested in space.



We introduced 'Night time reading bear' to our parents and families on our Parent Facebook forum, encouraging them to join in and look after their night time visitor, especially by reading a story together at bedtime.



### What did our children, parents and families think?

We wanted to know what everyone thought about Night Time Bear so we talked together and found the children and families had lots of interesting thoughts and comments.....

Adam (Tim's daddy) said "Tim loves his stories! He asked to snuggle the bear on Monday". And Ella-May (45months) said "My favourite story is the frozen one."

### What have we noticed about our children's development?

Since the introduction of 'Oscar' the night time reading bear, our children have become more passionate about books and book sharing. Children are talking about books they want to take home with night time bear and who is going to read with them. After Oscar has visited the children are eager to share their experiences at group time, they are showing confidence when talking in a group, learning to express their thoughts and ideas. Children's language and vocabulary has been extended through the use of books, it is broadening their interests and impacting on the relationships they have with their parents and families and promoting positive partnership working between nursery and home.

We have noticed our parents and families are talking with us much more about their child's love of reading and will often bring books from home for story time. Since posting 'Night time bear' on our parents and families private Facebook sharing forum, parents have wanted to share photos of other aspects of their lives, like photographs of children's birthday parties, bonfire nights and craft days. We are going to build on this opportunity to link into children's learning journeys and next steps and we hope to begin two way interactions with parents by commenting on how the photographs relate to practice.

### Next steps....

- ❖ We are looking at how we can extend the 'Night time reading bear' family by incorporating a 'Rhyme time bear' promoting oral language using rhymes, songs and tongue twisters.
- ❖ 'Word search bear' to promote environmental print, for example having a shopping list with different labels and encouraging children at shopping time to find different prints with their parents.
- ❖ 'Squiggle bear' to promote early writing using dough, for example sending little pots of dough home with different exercise for parents and families to do with their children.

**'Night time reading bear' has been a huge success and has become part of our Pollywiggles family!**

