



Wishing everyone a lovely summer break!



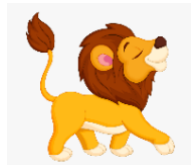
Our annual summer trip to Whipsnade Zoo

We had an incredibly successful trip to Whipsnade Zoo this year for our annual summer trip attended by our children and their families. A total of 27 people attended from Brook Nursery and from the feedback provided we can proudly say that it was an enjoyable day out for everyone.

A total of 67 staff, children and their families also joined us from our Otto site.

Most people highlighted that they enjoyed the “beautiful views”, the wide variety of exciting animals at the Zoo, and having a picnic lunch together with all the staff, children, and their families. They also really loved the train that took them around to see the animals, which gave everyone’s legs a little break from all the walking! One parent commented that they really cherished the opportunity to see their children play with their friends outside of the nursery. All the parents were pleased with the travel arrangements to and coming back from the zoo. The parents commented that the coach’s journey was comfortable, calm, and relatively quick. One parent commented. “The coach journey was great; it was smooth and easy.”

We would like to thank all the staff that did an amazing job in contributing to the preparation of this trip, you have all been amazing!







Exploring the variety of Zoo animals

Parent Notices

- Please call the office by 9.30am or 1:30pm to inform us of any absences or late arrivals for the morning and/or afternoon sessions.
- No mobile phone/camera policy: Please put your phones away when you enter the nursery premises.
- Parents are welcome to donate clothes to the nursery such as socks, hats, and trousers. For those who have some nursery spare clothes, please return them as soon as possible.
- Please support us by folding your buggies and putting them in an orderly fashion ensuring you do not obstruct any pathways.
- Please ensure your child does not bring toys to the nursery, as we will not be responsible for any toys that are lost.
- Please ensure your child does not bring any coins/money into nursery in their pockets.
- Please provide extra clothes and nappies for your child's sessions throughout the week
- Please ensure you apply sun cream to your child before coming to nursery during the warm weather.
- Please ensure you collect your child on time to avoid our late payment fine.
- **Parent e-mails:** We regularly send out e-mails to parents to notify everyone of events and updates.
- If you have not been receiving any emails, then please get in touch. Email: office@rooftop-nursery.com
- **Tapestry:** If you need support accessing Tapestry, please contact admin on office@rooftop-nursery.com

All parents should have access to Tapestry to check your child's observations. If you are experiencing trouble logging in or do not have an account, please inform the office.

A reminder of the Bonus programmes offered at Rooftop Nursery

Bonus programme	Room	Days & Times
French sessions	Rainbow Room	Wednesday (Fortnightly) 9:15am
Forest Play	Rainbow Room	Thursdays (Fortnightly between spring and autumn)
Heuristic play	Rainbow Room	Weekly
Yoga/ Tai chi	Rainbow & Sunshine	Weekly
Tiny Mites	Rainbow & Sunshine	Monday 9:15-10:15

Henry: Healthy Start, Brighter Future

If you're a parent or carer of young children, Henry can offer free support provided by a friendly and trained HENRY practitioner either online or by telephone. Opportunities include:

- Online parent support groups run by a HENRY facilitator giving you a chance to share experiences with a small group of other parents, find ways of reducing stress and gain new ideas to manage daily family life and get your little ones off to a great start.
- Sessions on specific topics such as introducing your baby to solids or tackling fussy eating – provided on the phone or via video calls.
- Having a HENRY Buddy - someone who will keep in regular contact with you, providing practical and emotional support to help you through the challenges of family life.

To find out more or to take part please fill in the online form or alternatively, ring on 01865 302973
<https://henry.org.uk/freesupport>

Rainbow and Sunshine room combined.

Exploring Animals

The children continued with their theme of exploring animals to link with the learning experienced by the children on their visit to Whipsnade Zoo for our summer trip last month. The children participated in activities such as making brown play dough, zoo animal tape rescue, hidden zoo animal hunt, and animal track painting. We also carried out 'What's in the bag' to further engage their curiosity and cognitive skills as they explore objects related to zoo animals.

Making Brown Playdough

Expressive arts and design – Creating with Materials

Sunshine room children were combined with Rainbow room children, and they all took part in making playdough. The practitioner provided flour, water, oil, salt, spoons, and bowls. The children were asked if they remember how to make play dough. Willow answered, "Pour oil". The practitioner encouraged the children to name and identify the ingredients during the activity.

The children were encouraged to scoop the flour from the big bowl using their spoons and add it to their individual bowls. They took turns adding each ingredient to their bowl and mixing them together with the practitioner's help.

All the children enjoyed manipulating the dough and pulling and cutting it into smaller pieces to make a lion. Nala enjoyed feeling the texture of the flour with both hands in her bowl. Willow added the flour to her bowl independently, she mixed the ingredients in her bowl and enjoyed squeezing the dough with both hands. Romy was able to add the flour with the practitioner's help and independently mixed the ingredients. Cesar used both hands to hold the spoon and mix the flour; the practitioner supported Cesar to hold the spoon with one hand and use the other hand to hold the bowl, he then did this independently. Siena, Bobby and Boudicea all thoroughly enjoyed mixing and exploring the texture of the dough by stretching and cutting it into pieces.

Once the children **noticed and became interested in the transformative effect of their actions** from making the play dough, they used their imagination to model and create their own idea of objects.

The children really enjoyed using their senses to explore this sensory, creative playdough they made during this activity.



Animal Rescue

Understanding of the world – The world

Animal tape rescue is a great fine motor task for toddlers. It involves putting masking tape on a toy and then giving children instructions to remove the tape to release the animals.

This activity also helps develop the toddlers' vocabulary because it provides them with many opportunities to learn new words related to animals.

Sunshine room and Rainbow room children were combined, Cesar, Romy, Malaiya, Amaru, Nala and Siena all sat around the table ready to rescue their animals, Romy rescued a cheetah, she looked closely at the cheetah turning and twisting it. Romy then put the cheetah onto the floor and went on to rescue the lion, and then the hippo. As Cesar took the tape off the elephant, it got stuck to his fists, he tried to remove the tape, and after a few attempts and a lot of focusing, he was successful. Nala rescued the zebra alongside some other wild animals. **The children were able to push, pull, lift, and carry objects, moving them around and placing them with intent** in the way they desired.

Malaiya was full of energy; she rescued a zebra and waved it in the air. Amaru held a hippo in her hand, whilst watching her peers rescuing the animals, Siena rescued many animals, she mentioned the names of the animals she saw in the Zoo and lined them up in a row.

This activity was a great way to introduce **showing care and concern for living things and the environment** and helped the children develop their listening skills and understanding of language.



Summer fun and transitions

The children continued to explore the theme of summer where they were provided with various activities such as spending time in the ball pool, role-playing 'going to the beach', making fruit ice lollies, painting watermelon crafts, "What's in the bag?" using summer items and much more.

Making fruit smoothie lollies

Physical development – Health and self-care

The children participated in an ice lolly activity and were combined in one room. They started off by cutting fruits independently. The practitioners provided strawberries and bananas on two plates, showing the fruits to the children, and asking them to describe the smell and the texture of each fruit. Each child was given a chopping board and their own fruit to cut. Before cutting the



strawberries, Siena wanted to taste one and with support from the practitioner, she cut the strawberries and sliced the bananas, finding the latter easier to handle.



Cairo confidently cut his fruit on his own, encouraged by both the staff and his peers. Once he finished, he independently placed the fruit in a bowl and poured it into the blender. Boudicea enjoyed the cutting activity and didn't require any assistance from the staff. She poured her fruit into the blending cup without help.



Cesar, Romy, Willow, and Malaiya required support from the practitioner while cutting their fruits and pouring them into the blending cup. To accommodate Malaiya's preference, some fruit was set aside and blended separately with her own

formula milk. After putting all the fruit together in the blender, the children watched the practitioner blend them on another table. Once blended, the smoothie was poured into different cups and lollipop sticks were added before placing them in the freezer for the children to take home at the end of the day.

Painting watermelon

Expressive arts and design: Creating with materials.

Watermelon is the perfect fruit to use to help children learn to develop their fine motor skills, number sense, colour and shape recognition.

The children created and counted as they made their own fruit-inspired pieces of art. The children were shown a picture of a watermelon before starting the activity, as soon as Nala and Willow saw the picture, they said "Watermelon".

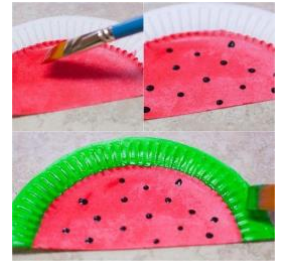
The children were then provided with half a paper plate to create their own watermelon and were given individual paint brushes to apply red paint to form their watermelons.

They showed they [can use tools for a purpose](#) and when it came to applying the green paint, some of the children decided to get stuck in use their hands. Nala enjoyed hand painting, which is a great way for her to learn and develop through sensory play as she could feel the cool, squishy texture of the paint and experiment with colour and patterns, encouraging further creativity.





Willow was inspired by Nala to also use her fingers and get creative. Boudicea loves to paint, she was very excited to dip her paintbrush into the red pallet. Romy was excited at first, she painted a little bit, but it went on her hand, and she decided to do a different activity. Cesar was engaged in this activity; he babbled whilst making red strokes on the white canvas. Cairo held the paintbrush in his left hand and used his hand-eye coordination to fully engage in this activity, Eli was standing observing his peers all busy painting.



What's in the bag using summer items.

Physical Development: Health and Self-care



Sunshine and Rainbow Room children took part in their language session with the practitioner where they were provided with a range of summer items that were placed in a closed bag.



The children were instructed to take turns and select one item from the bag and show all their friends and the practitioner. The practitioner sang the song "What's in the Bag" and then called the children's names to look inside the bag one by one. The children were able to [listen to others in one-to-one or small groups, when conversation interests them](#) during this activity and eagerly waited for their turn.

Siena took out a pair of sunglasses. Cesar pulled out a sun hat which he tried to put on his head and then passed it on to Boudicea. The children had taken out some sun cream which the practitioner put on all their hands and the children rubbed it into their skin. Willow asked for more sun cream as she liked the texture of the cream.

Transitions

The practitioners have continued to support the children by settling into Rainbow room (the toddler room) from the 24th of July onwards. They have been supporting the children with their independent skills such as identifying their new pegs, independence during mealtimes, and taking part in more circle time sessions. As the children have shown a high interest in the mark-making table, we have moved the mark-making area to the middle of the room to allow them to access it more easily and to provide space for more children. The practitioners will also remove any small or sharp objects in the room until the children develop a more understanding of safety.

The children will be participating in language and social group sessions to develop their communication such as listening and attention, understanding and speaking. The children will also be supported in understanding sharing and turn-taking by introducing the three-minute sand timer.

Key person support

The children have been supported by their key person as they transitioned to their new room, and spent time with them whilst handing over their information to their new key person. Nala, Boudicea, Bobby, Orlando, Willow, Siena and Cairo all transitioned recently. The children have been taking part in focused adult-led activities, learning about the golden rules for Rainbow and will continue to receive support as they familiarise themselves with where things go, including using the toilet area in their new room when going to wash their hands. We will also be using the Rainbow Room transition books to build an understanding of the room and the areas within the room. The practitioner will continue to support the children's independent skills.



Using our new cutlery during mealtimes.



Independently serving our salad.



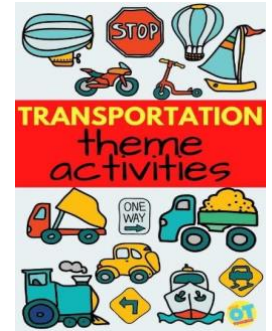
Using our big cups to drink water.



Taking part in adult-led activities.

Colours and Transport

Sunshine and Rainbow room children continued to embark on the theme of Transport and colours. They were able to explore and learn about vehicles and primary colours through engaging activities. They engaged in train track play, washing cars, jelly play with vehicles, and painted a vehicle. These activities supported the children's creativity, sensory exploration, and emotional development, and expanded the children's knowledge.



Colourful sand play with cars

Understanding the world/ The world

Sunshine room and rainbow room children enjoyed taking part in their sensory activity outdoors which supported their **understanding of the world and their imagination**. On a black tray, the practitioner added sand and three different primary colours



(red, blue, and yellow) and to make it even more interesting, vehicles were added. The children were given the opportunity to explore this amazing sensory activity outdoors as the weather was lovely.

The first child who showed interest in exploring was Cesar, followed by Siena, Orlando, Romy, Willow, and Bobby. This group of children enjoyed exploring and taking part in the activity by squeezing the sand in their hands and rolling the cars around the sand showing a sense of **knowing how things are used in different ways**. The practitioner took the opportunity to talk about colours, shapes, and textures. Bobby, Siena, and Cesar were able to repeat the word, "Yellow" and "Blue". Bobby was holding a yellow ball in her hand whilst exploring the coloured sand, the practitioner asked her to match the colour of the ball to the sand which she was confidently able to do.



Cesar and Siena came up with an idea, which was to get some spades and scoop the sand on top of the cars to cover them. Cairo wasn't really interested in exploring and playing with the coloured sand and he preferred to play with the balls and run around the garden. Willow, Cesar and Siena all showed interest in filling sand in the dumper truck and showed the practitioner once they had accomplished what they had set out to do. The children were able to **use simple tools to effect changes to materials** during this activity and use their imagination to explore the sand in different ways. They were also able to explore their likes and dislikes when it comes to messy play.



Train play with lentils and rice

Expressive arts and design/ Being imaginative and expressive.

Willow, Siena, Orlando, Cesar, Romy, Amaru, Boudicea, and Bobby all took part in another sensory activity where they explored train tracks and trains in lentils and rice along with wild animals and leaves.

As part of our transport theme, the children were given another sensory activity to engage and explore whilst learning in a fun way with all the lovely textures. The children first explored and named the items they could see on the black tray.



After five minutes of the children exploring and playing the practitioner asked them different questions to see if they were able to answer or even repeat the words. Willow and Siena were able to identify and say the words “train” and “rice”, while Boudicea, Bobby and Orlando were able to say the word “lentil” and “rice” with support from the practitioner as she repeated the key words multiple times. Amaru enjoyed exploring with her hands, and attempted to put some in her mouth however the practitioner reminded her not to. Cesar and Romy showed interest in playing with the trains, moving the train up and down, and engaging with the practitioner. The children were able to pick up objects using their palmar grip, shaking and pulling them between two hands while looking at them, especially Amaru, Romy and Cesar as they enjoyed sensory play. The children did well in this activity as they learnt about colours, trains and being able to engage with the world that surrounds them.

Bonus sessions

Yoga

Physical development/Moving and handling.

Sunshine and Rainbow Room children took part in their yoga session with the guidance of the practitioner. The yoga session started with the children in a circle doing some breathing exercises as well as stretching and moving their hands and arms up and down.

Romy, Willow, Cesar, Cairo, Siena, Bobby and Orlando did really well with their breathing and were focused during the moment. After the children had finished breathing in and out, the practitioner then modelled a range of poses just to get the children on their feet and work on their balance, coordination, and concentration.

They started with the cat pose and attempted to stretch. They were able to [change position from standing to squatting and sitting with little effort](#). Siena, Willow, Cairo and Bobby were able to follow the instructions given by the practitioner as they all did the cat pose, Willow, Romy, Cesar and Orlando needed a bit more support from the practitioner.

The practitioner then did the tree and the star pose to see if the children were able to imitate this, and they were able to follow simple instructions. The children then took five minutes to lay down on the colourful mat as they took a moment to peacefully relax and reflect.

Overall, it was a great activity for the children, they are becoming more familiar with the poses, strengthening their muscles and becoming better at maintaining their focus and attention.



Roof top
nursery

YOUR NURSERY

BABY ROOM TODDLER ROOM HEALTHY MEALS

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Did you know we're on Instagram

Please follow us on Instagram and recommend us to your friends and family.

roof.topnursery

Look out for updates and see some of the amazing pictures.

Look out for all updates.



Instagram



Last day of nursery for full-time children
Weds 16th August - Nursery closes early at 4 pm

Nursery Re-opens:
Monday 28th August - Bank Holiday
Monday 4th September - Inset day
The nursery re-opens – Tuesday 5th September.

Celebrating Rooftop Nursery's 18th Anniversary
Saturday 30th Sept – Mon 2nd Oct Week of celebration

Comments/ Suggestions

Please feel free to write any suggestions/comments you may have in the space below and email us on office@rooftop-nursery.com

Name (optional): _____ Date: _____