

TLC Nursery @ Nishmas
NEWSLETTER – 13th February 2015
Parshas Mishpotim

Parshas Beshalach

*"CHILDREN ARE NOT A DISTRACTION FROM MORE IMPORTANT WORK.
THEY ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK" – C.S. Lewis*

Dear Mums and Dads

This week's Sedra is Parashas Mishpotim. After having received the Torah in last week's Sedra, the Bnei Yisroel are told more about the laws within it, including establishing law courts, returning lost items and other legal issues. In nursery this week we concentrated on the prohibition against mixing milk and meat. The children spoke about their favourite meaty or dairy foods and about how we keep them separate at meal times, e.g. we do not have a glass of milk with our chicken soup on Shabbos! The children are in the process of making placemats; one meaty and one dairy, and sorted out pictures of food to put on their separate placemats. They are looking forward to using them at home!

Monday: Today the children enjoyed lots of sensory play. We filled a tray with dried lentils, peas and rice. It was a mixture of white, green and orange colours for the children to explore. WOW! the excitement when they were sifting, feeling, pouring and basically exploring independently. Sensory play includes any activity that stimulates young children's senses:

- Touch
- Smell
- Taste
- Sight
- Hearing

Sensory play plays an important part into contributing pre-schoolers with learning and discovery.

We filled a large tray with dried spaghetti and dried penne pasta and asked the children to thread as many dried spaghetti through the dried penne. A fantastic activity that helps expand their concentration span as well as good for developing their fine motor skills, pincer grip and hand eye coordination. WELL DONE CHILDREN!

Tuesday: Today with Monsieur Leon in our French class the children had so much fun learning names of animals. We started off and focused with 3 animals' names so as not to load the children with too many names of animals. Monsieur Leon had an interactive toy which made noises of the animals they learnt



about. For instance, Monsieur Leon would press the cow button and “moo” would sound out and then the children had to shout out “VACHE”! As well as Cow, the children also learnt pig (COCHON) and horse (CHEVAL). MERCI MONSIEUR LEON!!!!

We showed the children how their seeds were doing. Some were nearly 10cm tall! Unfortunately some didn't do too well and we explained that maybe the seed had had too much water. We will give the opportunity to let the children whose seeds didn't grow to plant another one. Learning through growing gives the children disposition and motivation to learn. What can be more exciting for children than sowing and growing and examining their results! Growing develops self-esteem and consideration for others as well as self-control. We asked the children “what do you think helped the seed grow with a long stem and a leaf at the end?” “WATER!” was the top answer. Well done children! Your listening, focusing, concentration and understanding were superb!!!!

Wednesday: Messy play!!! Yey!!! Mention messy play to an early year's practitioner and you'll probably get one of two reactions...fun, exciting, sensory exploration or, a whole heap of mess and mayhem. Like Marmite, we seem to love it or hate! Well, we love it at TLC and so do the children! The importance of it in early year's development cannot be overstated. Today it was shaving foam with lentils and glitter. The children loved it and loved showing us their foamy hands and the assortment of shapes they made using the wrong end of a paint brush! Hands on activities also help children to learn to compare textures of the materials and playing alongside other children will help them gain understanding of their own body space.

We would love to mention, and we are so proud, that some of the older children are starting to say their phonic sounds from memory. For instance, today a child was entering the toilets downstairs and pointed to the 'toilet' sign on the door and said the phonic sound to the letter “T” out loud! This comes from singing our phonic song every morning. WELL DONE CHILDREN!!!

Thursday: Today, to coincide with Mr Leon's French lesson we spoke about farm animals. We showed the children flash cards of animals and asked them to name them. We connected adult and baby animals and played games by asking questions such as “I am pink, have a curly tail and make this sound (oink). We asked open questions such as “describe the picture of the horse”. We sang songs such as Old MacDonald and five little ducks went swimming one day. We learnt that cows produce milk and chickens lay eggs. We taught the children that animals are living things with needs and feelings and some farm animals are big and need looking after by people. The children sat beautifully and by the sounds of it...making animal noises was the best part. And funniest!!!

Friday: Shabbos Mummy and Daddy today will be Ricky and Isaac.

BOOK OF THE WEEK: Something Else by Kathryn Cave and Chris Riddell

Wishing you all a good Shabbos!

Tracy, Steph, Dana, Becky, Rachel and Nicole

The TLC Team