



One of the team's highlights has been the Dear Zoo story in which they had a particular focus on retelling and sequencing. As well as creating bespoke story props (see below), children were able to practice ordering through the use of a puzzle, velcro pictures and a story stacking tower.



Leanne reported that the response from the children has been really heartening - one little boy who was typically quiet, loved joining in with the Dear Zoo story and suddenly found his voice! She says *'He got very excited when we brought out the book/props and knew what was going to happen next!'*

Baby Ducks Pre-School is a community preschool in Portslade. For more information, contact Leanne on 01273 911373, details on website - babyducks@sky.com www.babyducks.co.uk



Narrowing the Word Gap at babyducks Learning Through Play



Story planning takes centre stage

At Baby Ducks Pre-School, they have gone all out and revolutionised their planning! The setting has adopted a very thorough approach that aims to optimise the impact and learning opportunities of high quality books.

This model is underpinned by a detailed monthly plan - see example overleaf. At the heart are four key interrelated texts that feed into a range of exciting cross curricular activities.

The foggy foggy forest		Goldilocks and the 3 bears	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ice cream Van role play (Eno, PSED) Yoga - group time (animal moves etc) Shadow boxes with torches & toys (Utw, Eno) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> collage / soft materials teddy bear body part labelling (CtL) compare bears & Dice - counting game (M) paper plate bears (mini display) Lit, Eno Goldilocks & the bears' painting (PD, Eno) making instructions for porridge making - gluing & sticking - sequencing making porridge & eating it for snack - hot/cold (M, L, PD) oat playdough & bear cutters the three bears cottage role play Goldilocks music CD & learning the song 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black paint & shadow painting (Lit, Eno) Grey foggy sponge painting for background 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wooden spoon puppets Winter ice play shaving foam & arctic animals (Utw) discussing weather, mountains etc
<p>January 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The foggy foggy forest Goldilocks & the 3 bears Dear Zoo Mog in the fog 			
<p>Dear Zoo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> story blocks, sequencing in a tower (L) story board with velcro pictures (CtL, L) discussing - small, big, biggest etc using dear zoo pictures story telling with props (boxes with animals in) (LTL & M) Dear Zoo parcel unwrapping (Lit, Eno) (L) writing letters to the zoo (Lit, Eno, PD) Matching Animals - ark (M, Eno, Utw, Lit) weighing game - heavy & light items (M) discussing & sharing fact sheet info on giraffes/elephants 		<p>Mog in the fog</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> animal sponge painting (Eno, Utw) snow dough & animals for footprints (Utw, Eno) 	

babyducks		Adult Led activities			
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Shaving foam & arctic animals (Utw, Eno) ✓	Shadow boxes with torches & toys (Utw, Eno) ✓	Porridge at the table (making porridge) (Eno) ✓	Making Porridge (for snails) (PD, Lit, Utw) ✓	Playdough with odds in a bear cutters (M, L, PD) ✓
PM	Letters to the zoo (Lit, Eno, PD) ✓	Matching animals (ark) (M, Eno, Utw, Lit) ✓	Yoga at (groupings) (M, Eno) (Utw, Lit) ✓	Three bears cottage role play (Lit, Eno, Utw, Lit) ✓	CLOSED

The team skilfully interweave the different curriculum areas and include a balance of adult guided and child led experiences. For example as part of a focus on Goldilocks, opportunities are planned that will develop children's language to describe and compare size, materials and tastes.

This is achieved through a number of directed tasks such as making porridge and learning mathematical vocabulary which are then complemented by numerous opportunities for child led exploration. For example, the children enjoyed tasting the porridge and adding different combinations of toppings/fruit and also exploring the story through props, small world and role play.



- Top left: Porridge making and tasting
- Shadow boxes with torches (above)
- Small world ark play
- Re-enacting Goldilocks story in the outdoor area
- Ice sensory play to link with Mog in the Fog
- Shadow painting (below left)



The Foggy Foggy Forest..

