



Spateston Early Learning and Childcare Centre



Spring Newsletter 2025



We have had a very positive start to 2025 and are delighted that the children who started with us in January have all settled in. We are so excited that the children due to start in April will be with us soon. That will make our Spateston family complete for this academic year. The children have been loving their experiences within our play environment and the amazing stories that staff have been documenting about their learning are wonderful. We are about to change our displays at the entrance foyer and throughout the playrooms to celebrate the rich achievements the children are making. We hope you enjoy reading all about them. Please remember and share with us how the children extend their learning at home by emailing us photographs, sending your child's keyworker an email or going on to learning links. The new 'learning tree' at the front door will let you see how families are doing this and how we extend children's interests because of the connections we have. It adds value to the children's learning, and we just love when we have the links going back and forth.



World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on the 6 March 2025 by having a bedtime stories day. The children and staff loved coming to nursery wearing their pj's and settling down to listen to their favourite stories. Some of the children brought in the ones they have at home which we really enjoyed reading together. The Scottish Book Trust will be providing us with Explorer Resource Packs for all our 3-year-old children which we will distribute soon. We have seen the books that are in the pack, and they look great! We raised £207 with your donations; we are going to purchase more books for the nursery with this amount. The children will help us select the books that will enhance our nursery library.



Transition Programme

Some of the children who are moving on to primary school in August have started their visits. Each of the primary schools have their own programme in place and they will be in contact with you directly to provide their details. We will have our own programme with the schools and will be taking the children on additional visits as well as inviting their teachers into the nursery. These visits have already started to happen.



Staff Team Update

Bethany Cochrane has now returned from maternity leave. She is part time at the beginning of the week. Cheryl McCully is now part time and works at the end of the week. We are currently recruiting for support workers as we have two permanent vacancies. Stacey Toman who is one of our support workers will be stopping soon for her maternity leave so her post will be filled on a temporary basis. We are very fortunate that some of our part time staff have been working additional hours to temporarily support the changes we have been going through.

Diary Dates

Parents Meetings

The parent's meetings will take place week beginning 19 May 2025. These will be spread over the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday that week. Your child's keyworker will be in touch nearer the time to make a suitable appointment time with you.

Leavers Ceremony

The leavers ceremony for children going to school will be on Saturday 21 June 2025. There will be invitations nearer the time with all the details. This event is a lovely celebration, so we like you to have the date well in advance!



Spring Holidays

The nursery will be closed to all term time children from Monday 7 April 2025 until Monday 21 April 2025 inclusive. All other children will continue their normal placements at this time except Friday 18 April 2025 and Monday 21 April 2025 when we will be closed for the public holiday. All children return on Tuesday 22 April 2025. The centre will be closed to all children on Monday 5 May 2025 for a public holiday, Friday 23 May 2025 for an in-service day and Monday 26 May 2025 for a public holiday.



Our Allotment Update

Our allotment space at the rear of the nursery was damaged in the recent storm. We need to recover the poly tunnel and do lots of tidying to make the space useable again. The repairs need to be done when the nursery is quiet so the outdoor staff team will be coming in over the weekend to begin the transformation and get the allotment back to the valuable learning space it was. We are excited to get our fruit and vegetables planted as this is a huge part of our philosophy at Spateston. We love the outdoors!

Puddle Suits

Thanks to your huge generosity we have been able to purchase a set of new puddle suits and wellies. The difference this has made has been incredible. The children have loved getting them on as they take part in great outdoor adventures. They have been keeping the rain and mud out most of the time!





Please have a look at the fantastic learning that has been happening so far!



Within our Imagination Zone the children have been exploring cookbooks in the home corner. They have been considering the ingredients within the recipes. This prompted the children to see what they could find in our social zone. They decided on carrots and were chopping and grating and talking about them being halved and doubling the amount they had once they were cut into two pieces. One of the children had an idea about making carrot cake and the children wrote down the ingredients needed to make it. We are hoping that adding in the story of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' will initiate a tea party within the zone. The children have been continuing to make their own story books and using the stories we have but inventing a different ending to it. They have used observations from their friends around them, events going on in their own life and family members to generate their new ending to the story.



Within our Social Zone the children have been making pineapple jam and discussing the consistency of the jam, some of it was thicker and some of it thinner. There was discussion about why some of the jam didn't work very well. The children have loved tasting it and comparing what one they preferred, this has been recorded using a graph so that the children could discuss their findings. There has been a keen interest in recipes and the children have made their own chicken nuggets. They ordered the ingredients on the online Morrison's order. They have been looking at 'Hello Fresh' recipe cards and have discussed how some of the ingredients are growing within the allotment. The children will be able to go and pick what they need soon. We have planted plum tomatoes, cucumber, sweetcorn and melons so far.

Within our Creative Zone the children have been mixing colours and using them at the easel. They have been experimenting with the pipettes by dripping different colours into the water and watching it mix. One of the children saw a rainbow coming to nursery and they discussed the colours they saw. They then had a go at growing their own rainbow which created discussion about the texture of the paper they were using and how the paper was absorbent. Science was a feature of their play. The children are hoping to experiment further with tie dying material as part of the design aspect of expressive arts. The children love music and dance with many of them going to dancing. Exploring the different styles of dance allowed the children to talk about culture. Scottish dance as part of Burns Day encouraged them to learn the Canadian Barn Dance, they researched musical instruments and decided that they could make their own using the junk modelling.



Within our Discovery Zone the children have been exploring the shapes of the Perspex blocks. They have spoken about a right-angled triangle and the fact that when two of them are placed together it makes a diamond shape but if they turn it, they make a square. They then could see that when three were placed together it made half of a hexagon. The wooden blocks were used to discuss 3D shapes, cylinders, cones and pyramids with half a sphere going on top of the cylinder to make an ice cream cone. Looking through the Perspex blocks at the window gave the children an opportunity to experiment with the colours, they realised that if they put the red and blue ones together everything became purple.

Within our Outdoor Zone the children have been using different sizes of containers at the sand to build a city. The reason that different sized containers were being selected is because the children could say that cities have various sized buildings. The children stacked their moulded sand on top of each other so that some buildings were taller than others, creating high rise flats. In the covered area, the children were speaking about volcanos. They decided to create one and used baking soda and water to do the experiment, but it didn't work. They then decided that vinegar should be used with the baking soda and could comment that it looked like water, but that water was 'pickle'. Further discussion about volcano's gave the children the opportunity to share what they knew about them and the fact that volcano's empty once a year. They are going to continue to explore more about them. Forest walks have continued to be popular, and the children take time when they are outdoors to notice the environment. They were discussing the names of the trees and the height of them. They spotted footprints and thought they could belong to the Gruffalo. They have been looking for him so that they could take photographs. Whilst walking they were recalling the animals the Gruffalo met but were wondering why they couldn't see the owl. The children learnt all about owls being nocturnal and were interested in this idea. The children have amazing imagination when they are out in the environment and will often come up with great ideas that becomes part of their play.

