

Nursery Squirrels - EBL Question: Are we all the same?

This fits in with many areas of the EYFS Development Matter statements as detailed below:

PSE: Children had to work in large and small groups as well as engage with a talk partner to discuss themselves and spot similarities and differences about their features. These discussions enabled children to develop positive relationships with their peers. During child-initiated play children were observed talking more freely about themselves, families and home. i.e. "My hair is brown like mammy's".

Communication and Language: Children had many opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills through the many discussions we had, by answering what, where, who, why questions, by explaining and talking about themselves and their families. New vocabulary was introduced, added to our word wall and repeated regularly.

Physical development / Expressive Art and Design: Through linking in creative activities, children had opportunities to develop their fine motor skills, pencil grip, use of tools and thinking about and using the correct colours.

Literacy: We read many stories and looked at non-fiction books about families and being the same or different. Children were able to listen to and contribute to discussions about these books. These books were also available for children to access during their child-initiated play alongside puppets of different ethnicity and gender, which prompted further questions and discussions. Children had many opportunities to mark make during adult led activities, drawing their families and faces etc. Children also engaged in many child initiated mark making activities and proudly showed us the pictures they had drawn of themselves, houses, pets and families.

Maths: When looking at the question Are we all the same? The children had opportunities to group and sort themselves according to skin colour, eye colour etc. This involved counting then showing our results in a simple pictogram.

Understanding of the World: Through our discussions, children had many opportunities to talk about their own lives and their families, for example, their immediate family, who they live with, what they like to do together etc, developing their understanding of people and communities.

Characteristics of Effective Learning: Children were able to develop critical thinking skills and think of their own ideas when discussing and sharing stories about themselves, families, similarities, differences and answering the question Are we all the same?