

Monkey Puzzle Colchester May 2024 Newsletter



Our Mission Statement:

"Working Together with Families, Staff & Children to Provide an Enabling, Safe and Healthy Environment where Children can Learn, Laugh & Grow with Us"

Welcome to our May edition of Monkey News.

Nursery Manager



Hello and welcome to our May edition of Monkey News. We have been super busy throughout April and have loved that as we begin to head into May we are witnessing some lovely sunny weather... lets hope this continues.

Throughout April the nursery celebrated our theme which was 'Transport' and the children looked at and talked about a wide range of transport that they traveled on. There was lots of great activities based around the different modes of transport and the children enjoyed creating their own.

The children have been busy exploring some different festivals this month as well, and enjoyed looking at pictures and talking about both Eid and St George's day, with lots of discussions happening around the different events and lots of amazing artwork made for you to all enjoy.

Throughout April and especially on the 22nd the nursery took part in a range of activities to mark 'Earth Day' this allowed the children lots of opportunities to talk about the earth, the environment and how they can help look after it. Lots of good activities using green and blue was seen throughout the nursery and some of our older children even went on a little pick in the garden.

This links in nicely with the theme for May being 'The World' where the children will explore further a range of aspects that make up the world in which they live.

As always if you have any questions, concerns or queries please do not hesitate to get in touch via phone, email or in person.

James

SUN SAFETY: At Monkey Puzzle your child's safety is paramount to us, and this also includes looking after their skin when the sun is out. We would require you to supply a named bottle of sun cream for your child which will remain at the nursery (Please check the ingredients within the bottles as some do contain traces of nuts) Sun cream will be applied when the UV levels go over 3.



Monkey Puzzle Parents Football Team.

On Thursday 29th February the Monkey Puzzle Parents football team played their first game.

The team has continued to play on a Thursday evening, and is continuing to do Monkey Puzzle proud by winning!!

Good Luck on your next match.

Overflow Carpark

We are pleased to announce that Stanway Evangelical Church have said we can use their car park Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 4:30-6:30.

Directors



Welcome to all new children and parents who join our existing Monkey Puzzle community.

Hello I am Mario and I regularly visit the nursery to meet and see the children. When I am at the nursery I am always supervised by the management team when I am walking around the nursery or with the children.



Nursery Parent Number:

01206 560695

Birthdays

We have had lots of birthdays to celebrate in April across the nursery and would again like to wish a massive 'Happy Birthday' to...



Stanley, Arthur, Douglas, Felix, Joshua, Sophia, Savannah, Rowan, and Delilah.

All payments to be received on the 1st of each month or first working day after.
(All late payments will result in a £25 late charge)

WE WOULD KINDLY ASK ALL PARENTS TO PLEASE TELEPHONE THE NURSERY ON 01206 560695 BY 9AM IF YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ATTENDING NURSERY ON THAT DAY. IN ADDITION WE WOULD ASK YOU ALL TO READ AND FAMILARISE YOURSELVES WITH OUR SICKNESS EXCLUSION TIMES ON PAGE 9 THANK YOU

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Nursery News:

Danielle - Baby News:

As many of you may know our deputy manager Danielle is expecting a baby and the 30th April saw her last day at the nursery before she goes on maternity leave. Danielle will be greatly missed whilst she is enjoying this exciting time in her life. Saying that Danielle has promised that she will be coming to the preschool graduation this year!!

All of us at Monkey Puzzle wish Danielle the absolute best and cannot wait to meet the little lady when she arrives.



Who to contact regarding your issue?

Manjit: Regarding any issues / questions regarding occupancy of the nursery, increasing / decreasing your child's days, funding, and finances.

James: General nursery matters regarding your child, reporting if your child is sick or not going to be attending Nursery.

Amy: Regarding anything relating to administration.

Pick up and Drop off at MP:

Due to busy times at pick up and drop off please be advised that your child's key person is unable to give you a detailed and lengthy handover. We have informed our staff to keep handovers to around 30 seconds, unless there are forms such as accident / medication / funding to be signed. All information regarding what your child has eaten, how they have slept etc is all on the parentzone app.

Nursery Gifts:

The team would like to thank everyone who has given gifts to their child's key person, this could be due to the child leaving the setting or transitioning rooms.

As much as they love receiving the food based cakes and treats. They are unfortunately not able to enjoy these due to allergies in the nursery. If you would like to give individuals gifts could we suggest a voucher / personal items instead of food based gifts. Thank you in advance.

Nursery Parent Number:

01206 560695

INFORMATION

Basic Care:

At Monkey Puzzle we strive to deliver exceptional care towards all the children within our care with basic care being the top of our agenda.

If you do have any concerns regarding the basic care of your child please do not hesitate to get in contact with the management team who will quickly look into and deal with any issues.

Mealtimes at MP

Please be advised we have set mealtimes at Monkey Puzzle. This is to help build routine and consistency at the nursery. The times are as followed.

Breakfast 7:30-8:30AM (last sitting around 8.25ish)

AM Snack: 10AM

Lunch: 11.30AM

PM Snack: 2PM

Tea: 3.30PM

Important Dates for 2024!

Our inset days for 2024 are:

Tuesday 27th August 2024

(Please be advised the nursery will be closed on both inset days)

Preschool Graduation:

Thursday 22nd August 2024

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What will we be learning this month?

Monthly Theme:

The World

Home Learning:

The theme of the month is 'The World' and for some home learning we would like it if you could visit the outdoors, visiting areas such as the park, beach and being in nature will help to develop children's communication and wonder in the world they live. Don't forget to send us plenty of pictures in as we love seeing what you have been up to when you're not at nursery.

Books of the Month

The Snail and The Whale
by Julia Donaldson

The Kings Coronation
by Campbell London

Borrow Bags

These bags contain a range of objects that allow you to talk to your children about key transitions that may happen throughout their lives. The borrow bags we current have are:

Potty Training // New House // New Baby // Emotions.

If you would like to borrow and use one of these bags at home please speak with a member of the team and we can arrange this for you.

Staff Birthdays

Throughout April we have celebrated lots of staffs birthdays. We at Monkey Puzzle love celebrating a birthday and would like to wish the following another 'Happy Birthday' ... Chris, and Cathy.



Dates for your Diary:

Monday 6th May : Bank Holiday *NURSERY CLOSED*

12th May : World Children's Day

13th May : Mental Health Week

Monday 27th May : Bank Holiday *NURSERY CLOSED*



April Recap

Starfish

In Starfish this month the children have been looking at the topic of transport, the children have enjoyed participating in a range of different sensory activities around road, rail, air and water transport. The children all developed a wide range of skills and even learnt some new ones too :).

The children looked at road transport first exploring a tray with a road and roundabout in and some of our road vehicles including cars and buses. The children enjoyed pushing the cars forwards and backward round the track encouraging their gross motor skills and hand to eye coordination skills as they do so.

Continuing with this topic the children then explored cars in flour, this is a lovely messy activity for the children where they can explore the sensory texture between their hands and fingers. The children push the cars through the flour before scooping up bug handfuls and emptying it back in the tray, oh how we got messy!

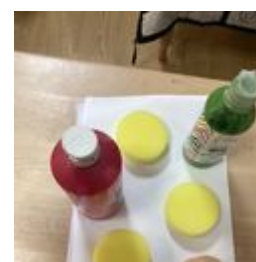
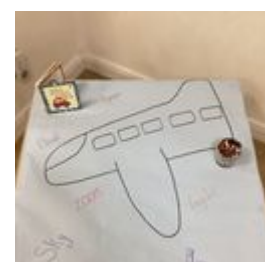
To explore rail safety the children enjoyed a lovely rail set up including animals and textured grass, the children explored a variety of textures listening as the textures are described, the children also mimic the sounds of the farm animals and enjoy looking at the book.

Next up we explored air transport where the children developed their mark making skills using the different coloured crayons, the children held these crayons in their palmer grasp and stroked them from side to side across the airplane visual colouring it in and creating lines and squiggles on the paper, the children also developed turn taking skills, recognising colours and had a lovely time playing alongside one another.

Next up is water transport, the children used the boats to push around blue bubbly gloop, again there was some lovely textures to explore and the children loved the sticky, cold texture of the gloop. The children used their problem solving skills upon realising the boats were stuck in the gloop. Finally the children looked at road safety, the children explored the cars on the car mat listening intently as a practitioner spoke about road safety.

The children explored the rice tray made as a zebra crossing and created their own traffic lights pictures using paint and sponges.

This month we also celebrated Eid creating moons and stars using paintbrushes in the flour, the children used their manipulation control to make lines and wiggles in the flour. We also celebrated St. George's day with a lovely shaving foam and block flag, the children explored the foam and built some mini towers with the blocks. Another lovely month in Starfish :) xx



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Starfish this month

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April Recap

Rainbow Dolphins

This month in Rainbow Dolphins we have been learning about all different types of transport. To begin our transport journey we started off learning about road transport, this is something the children love playing and exploring with daily, they enjoy the cars and moving them up and down the room. We extended this play by setting up an activity washing the cards with shaving foam and tooth brushes and the children had so much fun with this.

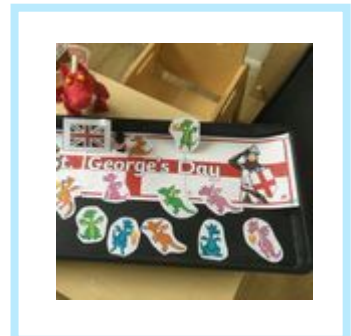
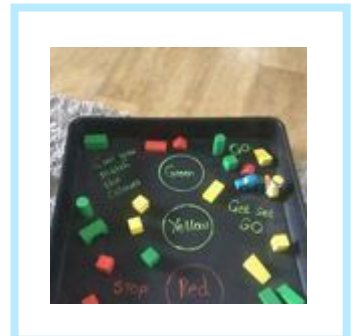
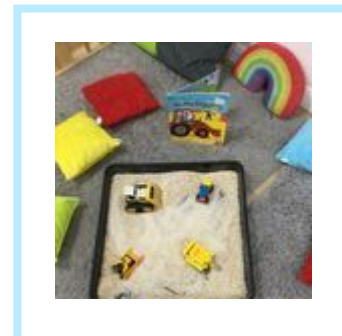
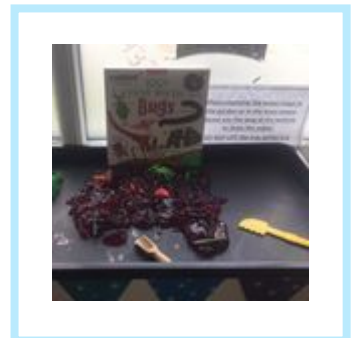
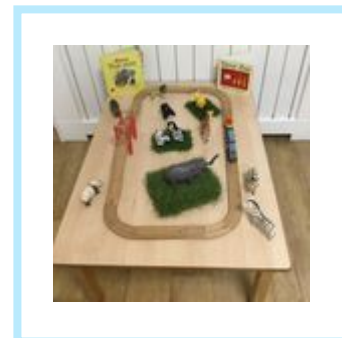
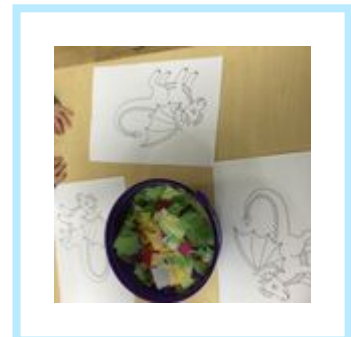
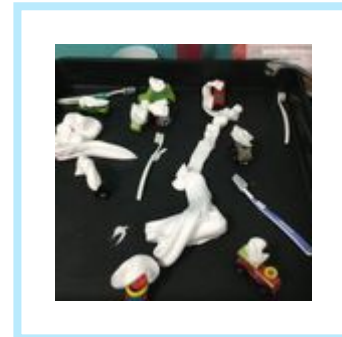
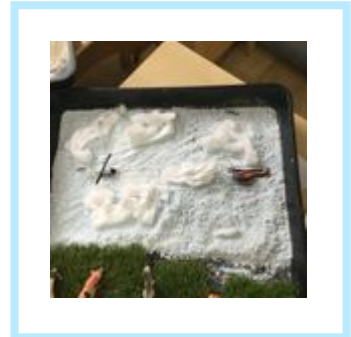
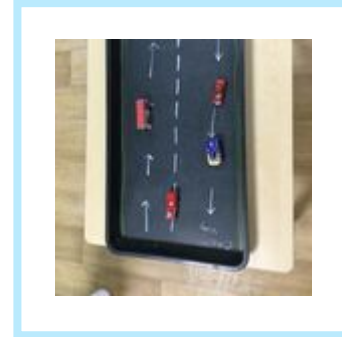
In rainbow dolphins we also enjoy playing with the trains and track. To encourage the children to actively learn the practitioners have been building half a track and allowing the children to build the other half, this is great for them to create and critically think about what they are doing and also playing alongside their friends helping one another.

Outside in the garden we usually see lots of aeroplanes and helicopters fly passed, one of the activities this month was to find and count how many we could see in the sky, the children really enjoyed this and shouted out "plane, copter" when they see them in the sky. In the water tray we have set up some boats and we have had lots of fun playing with them and splashing in the water, water play is always a fan favourite in the room. We also decorated and made our own boats using different types of materials and colours.

The last part of this month we touched upon road safety and spoke about how it is important to always hold an adult's hand when crossing the road and that it is dangerous to run off. We used our stop and go sign to practice in the garden and had lots of fun with this and a great way to use and develop the children's listening skills.

St George's day is always a nice day to celebrate and the children played with dragons and decorated their own one to take home. We have also had a World penguin day where there was an arctic activity set up for the children to play with and lots of children remembered they had seen penguins at the zoo.

We look forward to going into the month of May and hopefully the sunshine will soon make an appearance and stay. We will be spending lots of time outdoors in the next coming months enjoying the sunshine and open space.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Rainbow Dolphins this month

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April Recap

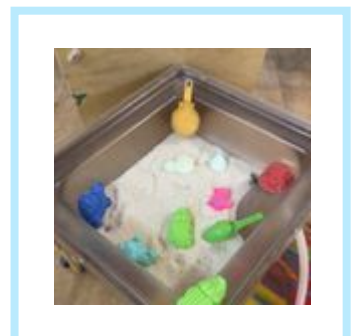
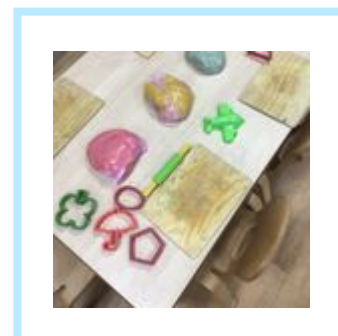
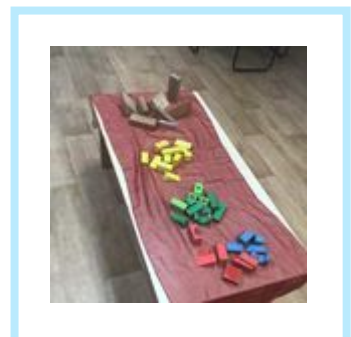
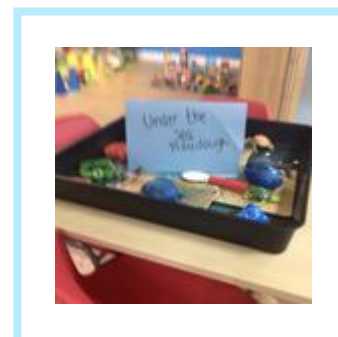
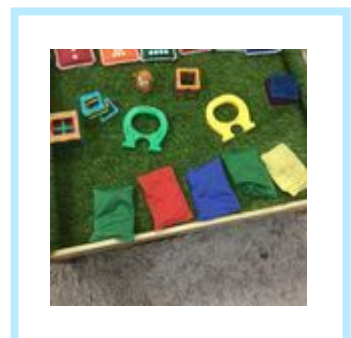
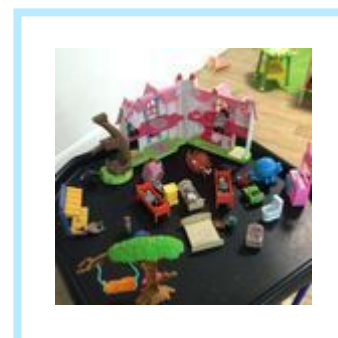
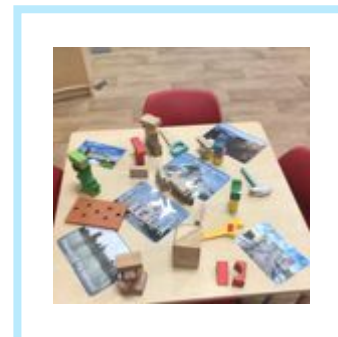
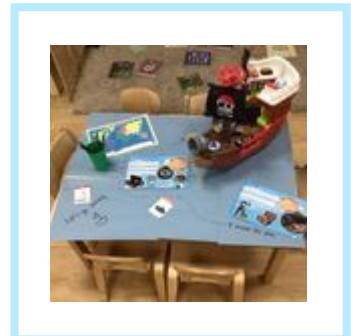
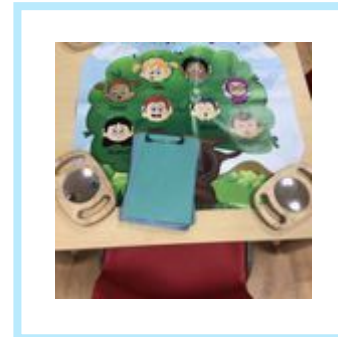
Dolphins

This month in dolphins we have had a variety of activities out such as things related to our topics such as sea craft and aeroplanes and different types of travel, we have also been organising our cosy area with lots of favourite chosen stories and comfortable pillows and other related things for our cosy area.

We have taken the children's interests at heart by setting up dinosaurs with green felt for more of a sensory feeling to the table, we have also been reading stories to do with our activity of dinosaurs.

We spoke about the sea too and what animals live down there and what floats on the top, so to enhance their learning further with this topic we created smooth glittery blue playdough with water animal play dough cutters, which the children all very much enjoyed, we have also enjoyed our rice play too scoop and pouring back into the tray focusing on our fine and gross motor skills.

Well done Dolphins.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Dolphins this month

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April Recap

Octopus

April has been a busy month!

We have based our learning around different types of transport, air, water, road and rail. The children have been doing lots of exciting activities that have focused on lots of different aspects of development.

We have had lots of craft activities, the children have made trains that also focused on their number recognition and sequencing as the windows were numbered. There have been some beautiful watercolour pictures of aeroplanes and some pictures using shapes to create vehicles.

The children have also been enjoying play dough activities and lots of messy play tuff trays. We had a train one and a town and car park one too! We really enjoyed playing with the monkey puzzle airport that we created, the children had great fun introducing stories to their play in the airport.

During April we have also had lots of other celebrations too. We had St George's day, Earth day and Eid-UI-Fitr. We did some lovely craft and play dough activities.

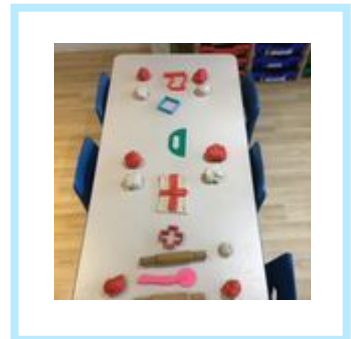
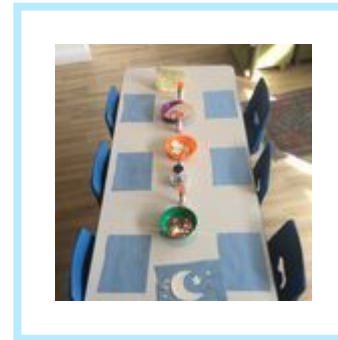
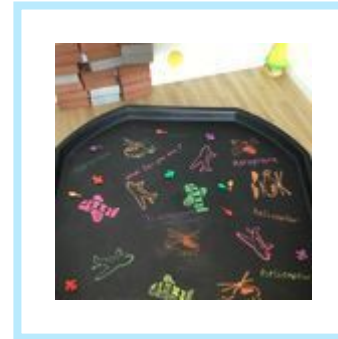
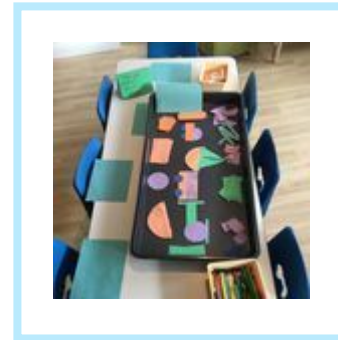
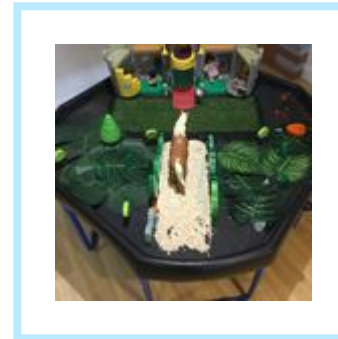
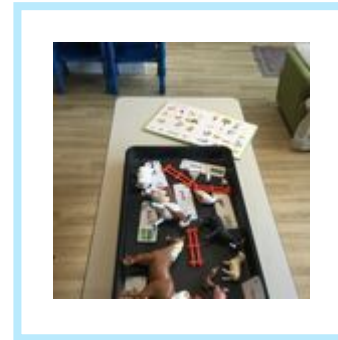
The children have also been really enjoying their Spanish lessons, they are getting really good at the songs and recognising the names of colours in Spanish.

April has been full of fun! We are looking forward to seeing what fun May brings

Preschool Uniform:

If you would like to purchase a preschool top at a cost of £13 please speak to Manjit.

The polo tops come in two sizes: 3-4yrs / 5-6yrs.



Throughout each week the children in Octopus will be taking part in a range of Science, PE and 'Letter and Sounds' activities.

This Month:

Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the children in Octopus. The children in Octopus will be taking part in a Tennis lesson.

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April Recap

Coral Reef

Throughout April the children have enjoyed taking part in a variety of different activities relating to our topic of transport, each week, we have been focussing on a different mode of transport, allowing the children to learn about each one in more detail and take part in lots of exciting activities based on this.

To begin the month, we learnt all about road transport, the children engaged in activities relating to road transport as well as learning all about the safety of roads and what we must do when we are near them, throughout this week, the children enjoyed using cars to match the correct numbers and letters allowing the children to work on both their literacy and mathematics, the children also enjoyed getting messy in the 'car wash' out in the garden, helping to clean each of the vehicles that got stuck in the mud pile, throughout this activity, the children learnt the importance of keeping our toys clean and looking after them, the children also used both their fine and gross motor skills to ensure the cars were shining after their visit to the car wash!

Our next weeks focus was on rail transport, throughout this week the children enjoyed lots of small world play with the trains, creating their own narratives, using their imaginations and working together to build some amazing tracks! The children also used their artistic skills to create their own trains using the hammer and nails as well as forming a 'name train' using different shapes with different letters on.

Throughout this week, the children have also been showing huge interest in the construction vehicles, this led to lots of construction play in the tuff tray, using the diggers and trucks to transport the oats and rice around, during this activity, the children showed great patience and sharing whilst waiting for the different vehicles.

Following on from rail transport, the children have been learning all about air transport, the children have learnt all about the different types of air transport such as, airplanes, helicopters, space crafts and even hot air balloons which they found very interesting. Throughout this week, the children made their very own different modes of air transport using balloons, sticks and different mark making tools, we have been really focusing on our mathematics too, using the different shapes to form different modes of air transport.

Towards the end of the month, we based our learning on water transport, the children have been creating their very own boats using junk modelling, as well as exploring water themed tuff trays, we have also incorporated learning about floating and sinking when making our own boats and testing them out on the water! Throughout April, we have also been taking part in different festivals and celebrations, one being Ramadan and Eid, the children have been reading stories based on these celebrations to help learn and get a better understanding on why these are celebrated, we also created some beautiful Eid pictures to take home to our families. We have also done a range of activities to celebrate both earth day and st George's day.

Preschool Uniform:

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The polo tops come in two sizes: 3-4yrs / 5-6yrs.

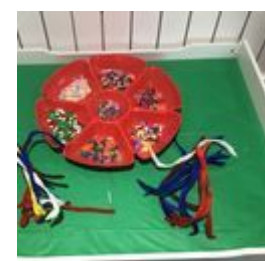
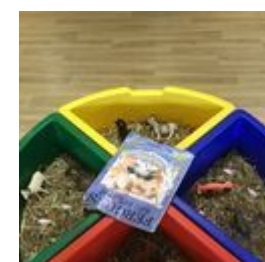
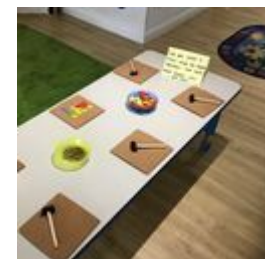
Throughout each week the children in Coral Reef will be taking part in a range of Science, PE and 'Letter and Sounds' activities.

This Month:

KidsLingo will be visiting the children to teach them Spanish.

Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the children in Coral Reef.

The children in Coral Reef will be taking part in a Tennis lesson.



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Refer a Friend.

Refer a friend to the nursery and if they register you will receive **£100 off of your next month's fees.** *(T&C's Apply)*

Important Notes for Parents

Facebook



Have you checked out of Facebook page yet?

Like us on Facebook for regular updates on the nursery and a chance to win in our quarterly prize draw.

www.facebook.com/monkeypuzzlecolchester

Please check your ParentZone updates and emails from the nursery regularly.

Please ensure that all of your contact details and your child's emergency contacts are up to date.

Day Nurseries

We are proud to be rated 10/10 on daynurseries.co.uk and voted as a Top 20 day nursery in the East of England.

Thank you to all of the parents/carers who have already reviewed our nursery!



Please check the parent / carer area on the website regularly for updates.

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather outside, we will be accessing the garden in all weathers.



ILLNESS / INFECTION

EXCLUSION PERIOD

Chicken Pox	Minimum of 5 days from the onset of the rash and all spots must be fully scabbed over before returning to nursery.
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting	Whilst symptomatic and for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.
Hand, Foot and Mouth	All blisters must have dried out before returning to nursery, usually this is after approximately 4-6 days.
Headlice	There is no recommended exclusion period, however, parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair for head lice and we would be grateful if nursery are informed so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.
Impetigo	Until the lesions have crusted or healed.
Measles	Excluded for 4 days from the onset of the rash.
Scarlet Fever	Excluded from nursery for the first 24 hours after starting treatment.
Whooping Cough	Excluded for 2 days after starting treatment, or 21 days from the onset of symptoms if no antibiotics.
Prescribed Medication	Children must be taking any medication for a minimum of 24 hours before coming in to nursery. Medication can only be administered after the 24 hour exclusion even if your child has previously taken the same medication. All medication must be in its original packaging with the prescription label attached and clearly showing child's name.
Immunisations including Flu nasal spray	If your child has had any form of immunisations, including the Flu nasal spray, they are not permitted to attend nursery for the following 24 hours due to possible allergic reactions.
Infant Suspension - Calpol	If a child develops a fever whilst at nursery the staff will use natural methods first, such as removing clothing, to try and reduce the temperature while closely monitoring the child and contacting the parents. If a child does require emergency Calpol due to a high temperature of 38 degrees or above the parents will be contacted prior to ensure all details are correct and that they agree with the dosage being given. Parents will then be required to collect their child.

