

Preschool Surveys

The EYFS assesses whether children can tally using mark making. This can help support progress across the curriculum, mark making, gaining pen control, using tools purposefully, as well as the counting, grouping and sorting, making arrangements with marks aspects of the activity – all really important for early maths!

We started off with what's your favourite exercise? What's your favourite drink? And what's your favourite fruit? But so many children wanted to do a survey too that we had to do lots more! The activity was developed by the children who investigated favourite super-heroes, TV programmes, princesses, dinner time favourites and modes of transport – all child initiated ideas!

The person doing the survey had a clipboard and a pen; they guessed which would be the favourite and then they had to ask each individual child in Preschool their question. They asked confidently and even surveyed the adults. After asking the person surveyed, they then had to make a corresponding mark in the correct column. We only had one refusal and that was a boy saying he didn't like Princesses! When all the children and adults present in preschool had been asked we had to count the marks and write the total at the bottom of the columns.

The children then had to work out which had the most marks and which had the least (which was the favourite and which was the least favourite).

This task produced lots of talk about what was our favourite/s and why. What's your favourite exercise, really provoked questions about being , linking to understanding of health and well-being, and why was swimming the favourite? We discovered an interesting fact - everyone does swimming lessons or goes swimming! This led to lots of dialogue about swimming lessons and what the children enjoyed at swimming, developing speaking, listening

and understanding skills, all important aspects of communication and language development.

Everyone wanted a turn at completing a survey (some children chose the questions they wanted to ask as well as the survey focus) and the next week a child asked can we do a survey about what people would want on their pancakes? This showed that the group had made attention to detail and through active learning had made learning links in remembering a survey was a good way to collect data and find out what people liked.

Curriculum Links

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Enjoying the responsibility of carrying out small tasks

Confident to talk to other children

Communication and language

Listens to others and responds to ideas expressed by others

Able to follow directions

Uses talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking and ideas

Physical Development

Holds pen in thumb and two fingers and with control

Shows preference for a dominant hand

Shows some understanding that exercise and healthy food can contribute to good health

Mathematics

Knows that numbers identify how many objects are in a set

Beginning to represent numbers using fingers or marks on paper

Counts to 10 and beyond

Uses the language of more and fewer to represent numbers in a set

Characteristics of effective learning

Playing and exploring

Engaging in an open ended activity

Showing a can do attitude

Seeking challenge

Active learning

Showing high levels of energy and fascination

Paying attention to detail

Not easily distracted

Being proud of how they accomplished something

Enjoying meeting challenges

Creating and thinking critically

Making links and noticing patterns

Developing ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect

Making predictions