

# High in the sky!

This charming poster and rhyme will encourage your children's imaginations to fly. Visit our website to see and hear the animated version!

## Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Read the poem (see **Activity sheet 2**, 'Five balloons high in the sky!') and ask children to identify the six animal friends in the poster: *Which two friends are sharing a balloon? Who called the pig to come and play?* Talk about how each animal called for a friend to join the fun. Invite two children to hold hands and dance around, stop and then call another friend to join them.
- Identify the poster animals and talk about how they might be feeling as they float over the countryside: *Do you think they are happy or sad, or perhaps excited or worried?* Ask the children to recall travelling experiences, for example, on cars, trains, aeroplanes or boats. *Which ride did they enjoy most and least?* Share experiences of exciting fairground rides.

### Communication, Language and Literacy

- Read each rhyming couplet in turn and point to the appropriate poster image while you read. Now change the word at the end of the second line of a couplet so that it has the same meaning but no longer rhymes, for example, *by/air* instead of *by/sky*. *Which do the children prefer? Can they say why?* Think of strings of rhyming words, using the first two from the poem, for example, *by, sky, pie, try, fly*.
- Read the poem while the children explore the poster. Invite them to make up a story about the six animal friends: *Where might they be flying to? What might happen to them? How will the story end?*

### Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Read the poem while looking at the poster and then ask five children to sit at the front holding different coloured card 'balloons' numbered one to five. As you repeat the verses of the poem, ask the children with balloons to stand up one by one and pretend that their balloons are flying high in the sky.
- Count the balloons and animals on the poster together. Which balloon has two animals in it? Are there more balloons or more animals? How many more balloons would be needed so that every animal has one?

### Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Discuss what the poster animals might see when they look down, for example; snow-capped mountains, trees, meadows. *What might they see if they flew over a town? Will things look the same above as they do on the ground?* Explore aerial views of your area ([www.multimap.com](http://www.multimap.com)) and identify landmarks.
- Discuss how a hot air balloon works (see [www.faqkids.com](http://www.faqkids.com)). Explore different ways of travelling through the air and share the children's experiences of flying. Decide which method

### How to use the poster

Display it as the centrepiece of a display entitled 'High in the sky!'. Photocopy the rhyme and put this beside it. Fill the remaining space with children's artwork depicting balloons and images of hot air balloons (see our online resources and 'I spy... in the sky' activity cards). Hang the children's papier mache balloons (see the activity 'Balloon fun' in *Up, up and away!* p24–25) as mobiles in front of the display.



would be best to travel through space, for a relaxing ride or to reach a holiday destination.

### Physical Development

- Read the poem and identify words describing how the poster balloons and animals are moving, for example; *skipping, bathing, dozing*. Invite the children to make these movements as you re-read the poem.
- Talk about the fun the friends are having and suggest that a strong wind blows them away one by one. Ask five children to stand in a row as the others pretend to be the wind, waving and flapping their arms and saying:  
*Five hot air balloons, floating on high,  
The wind below one away, right across the sky.  
Four hot air balloons... and so on.*

### Creative Development

- Discuss the patterns and shapes on the balloons and baskets. Provide balloon-shapes and rectangular cards for baskets. Invite children to decorate them with patterns and shapes using printing and collage techniques. Attach the 'baskets' to the balloons with ribbon and suspend them from the ceiling.
- Dip blown-up balloons and rectangular sponges in thick paint to create pictures of hot air balloons using printing techniques. Experiment with colour mixing to create interesting patterns.

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