

A bird's-eye view

This poster image of an airport seen from above will encourage children to think about how things look when viewed from different angles

Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Make a list of the different people who might work in the airport on the poster, for example, air traffic controller, luggage handler, pilot, flight attendant, car park attendant, cleaner, and so on. Invite the children to decide which of these jobs they would most like to do and why.
- Identify the helipad on the poster and discuss the role of helicopters in rescuing people, for example, out at sea or on a remote hillside. Extend the discussion to include other vehicles that come to our assistance when we are in danger.

Communication, Language and Literacy

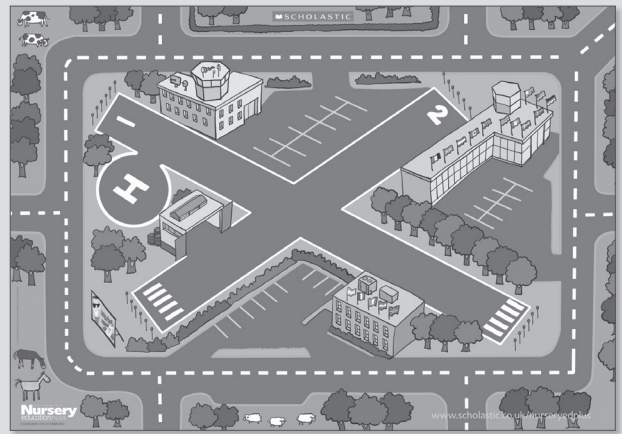
- Ask children to point to the letter 'H' on the poster and establish that this is a capital letter. Discuss why this letter is painted on the ground in this context. Invite the children to think of other signs they might see at an airport, for example, 'Entrance', 'Exit', 'Check-in', 'Toilets'. Make some mini-signs based on the children's suggestions.
- As you explore the poster, encourage children to share memories of visiting an airport when going on holiday or meeting someone. Make comparisons between airports the children have visited and the one in the poster.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Ask the children to find the trees on the poster and notice how they are arranged in clusters. Point to groups of trees and count how many trees there are. Provide some small world trees and pose simple problems to the children involving adding different sized groups together.
- Discuss the meaning of 'overhead', 'aerial' and 'bird's-eye view' in the context of this poster: *Why is this view more suitable for maps?* Take some photographs of a doll's house from the side, front, back and above. Lift it onto a table and take a photo looking up at it. Print the photographs and invite the children to decide where you were when you took each picture.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Identify the buildings on the poster and decide what they might be used for. Establish the position of the control tower and talk about what happens inside. *Why does it have large windows on all sides?* Introduce airport-related words such as 'hangar', 'windsock', 'check-in', 'departure lounge', and explain their meanings.
- Find the helipad on the poster and ask the children to decide which building might house the helicopter: *Why does a helicopter use a 'pad' rather than a 'runway'?* Make comparisons between the features of a helicopter and an aeroplane, for example, rotor blades and wings.



How to use the poster

Ideally, laminate the poster and use it as a playmat or tabletop base for airport small world play. Identify the four main buildings: terminal building, control tower, hangar and hotel. Discuss what these buildings are used for.

Display the poster as a part of a display about air travel. Include children's artwork, holiday photographs and pictures of aircraft. Create an exploration table below with linked artefacts, such as model aeroplanes, boarding passes, hand luggage bags and tickets.

Physical Development

- Set up a small world scene using a laminated version of the poster (remember you can also download A4 and A3 versions of the poster from our website, visit www.scholastic.co.uk/nurseryedplus and if you're not yet a subscriber to the magazine remember to use the access code: **935914**). Mould and shape dough to make simple aeroplanes and vehicles to inspire imaginative play on the map.
- Use the poster to stimulate outdoor role play ideas for an airport. Mark out runways, roads and parking spaces. Use large equipment and apparatus for buildings and provide ride-on vehicles to travel to the airport. Encourage children to make accessories such as tickets, passports, flags and windsocks.

Creative Development

- Discuss the poster content and identify features, such as roads, junctions, trees and animals. Invite the children to create a collage of a familiar place on a large sheet of paper using scrunched up tissue and ripped coloured paper.
- Encourage children to make an extra section for the playmat. Can they continue the roadways leading off from the airport by drawing them onto large sheets of paper? Suggest ideas for features to draw in the surrounding countryside.

Jean Evans is an Early Years consultant and author.