

2011 CALENDAR

Use these colourful images to introduce familiar annual events in the children's lives and display in your setting throughout the year



How to use the poster

Laminate the poster and display it as the centrepiece of your notice board. Create a distinct card border to frame one image and move it along from month to month throughout the year.

Stimulate child-initiated ideas by displaying the poster at a suitable height alongside indoor and outdoor role play opportunities.

Each image is available as a separate circle-time card to stimulate group discussions. Download these from www.nurseryedplus.co.uk

Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Talk about some of the religious and cultural celebrations children enjoy with their families and explain that these usually occur each year in the same months, often on the same day. Find the poster images linked to Valentine's Day, Easter, Harvest, Bonfire Night and Christmas and identify the months when these celebrations occur. Share memories of them.
- Ask the children to find the ripe wheat image and discuss why it is linked to September. Introduce the word 'harvest' and explain the significance of Harvest Festivals, when people sing special songs and go to church to thank God for a safe harvest. Find another image linked to harvest time (ripe apples).

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Ask the children to find the 'picnic' image and discuss why this image depicts the month of July. Invite them to look for clues that indicate how many people are at the picnic, for example, only one hat and glass. Share picnic memories and set up role play opportunities to follow this.
- Use the poster to extend vocabulary and awareness of initial letter sounds by playing guessing games. For example, ask individuals to choose a favourite image and then answer questions from the others about it, or play poster 'I spy', until the chosen image is guessed correctly.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Explore similarities and differences in the patterns shown on the poster images, for example, the regular squares on the tablecloth and the tennis net, or the contrasting straight lines on the iced biscuits and wavy lines on the hard boiled eggs. Recreate some of these patterns on iced biscuits or using playdough.
- Make up a simple story based on a poster image and create a set of sequence cards to tell it, for example:
 1. A drawing of a flat beach with no sea
 2. A drawing of a sandcastle (as in the poster)
 3. A drawing of a wave about to cover the sandcastle
 4. As drawing 1.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Point to the blossom image (May) and explain that it is apple blossom. Discuss how the fruit grows from these flowers, and look at the image of apples. Talk about the two seasons when we would expect to see blossom and fruit on trees.
- Look closely at the blossom and apple images and ask the children to find other images of growing things on the poster (daffodils and wheat). Provide resources for children to make indoor and outdoor observational drawings of growing things during different seasons. Discuss why it is better to make these drawings by observing real plants and flowers rather than just images.

Physical Development

- Explore the image of a tennis ball going over a net. Watch a short video clip of a Wimbledon match, if possible, and discuss why this great tournament is held in June each year. Set up a role play Wimbledon with a low net and bats and balls and provide juice to quench thirst.
- Talk about the star shapes from the fireworks in the November image. Recall other fireworks the children have seen, such as rockets and Catherine wheels, and the shapes that they made. Create firework shapes with the whole body or concentrating on finger, hand and arm movements.

Creative Development

- Explore the rainbow colours of the 'January' balloons and explain that such balloons decorate rooms during New Year celebrations. Create card balloons using bright paint in the colours of the rainbow. Hang them in groups of the same colour in the correct order but varying heights to form a large rainbow across the room.
- Play a game involving individuals choosing from a selection of clothing accessories to put on while others guess which image(s) they could be associated with, for example; gloves match to the Christmas tree/fireworks image; sunhat links to picnic, tennis or beach; apron matches with cookies, eggs.

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