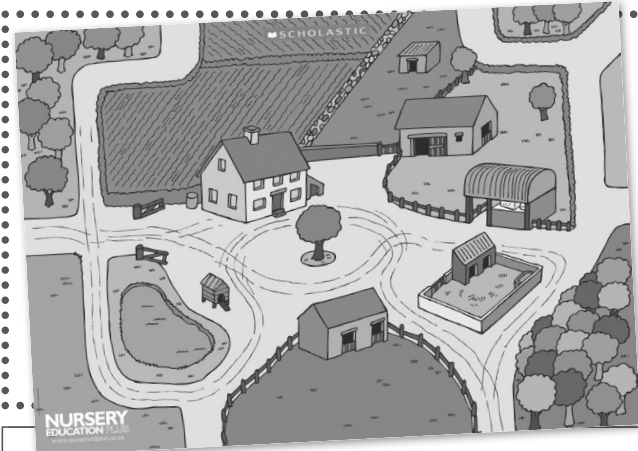


FARMYARD VIEW

Encourage children to explore how the buildings and landscape on a farm are used with our colourful poster that offers lots of opportunity for investigative play



How to use the poster

Use the poster as part of a display about farms. Surround it with pictures and the children's own photographs and artwork depicting farmworkers, animals and machinery.

Laminate the poster for use as a floor playmat, or display it on a table or Tuff spot along with small world farm equipment, farmworkers and animals.

It can also be used as an extension to the poster 'A bird's-eye view' from October 2010's *Nursery Education PLUS*, with which the roads match, to increase scope for imaginative play. Subscribers can download it from www.nurseryedplus.co.uk

Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- As you explore the poster, identify the gates, hedges, fences and walls that keep the farm animals safe and stop them from wandering away. Talk about how the farmer makes sure that these safety barriers remain strong, for example, by checking for holes, repairing fences and building up walls that have fallen down. Invite children to consider how they keep their own pets safe.
- Provide a selection of small world farm animals and invite children to work in pairs to place them in suitable areas on the poster mat. Ask each pair in turn to remove one set of animals from the layout and then ask the others to guess which animals are missing.

Communication, Language and Literacy

- As you discuss the poster, speculate about who might live in the house. Ask children to draw a picture of the imaginary family that they would like to live there. Help them to annotate their pictures with appropriate captions.
- Make some small matching word cards related to the animal homes featured on the poster, for example, 'horse' and 'stable', 'pig' and 'sty'. Read the words together, match them and place them on the poster mat in suitable positions. The poster is available online and as a black and white A4 sheet. Encourage children to label different areas and buildings, and add extra features to these.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Observe the arrangement of trees on the poster and ask children to point to them, for example: *Can you find a line of three trees/ eight trees in a row/ a single tree/ a field with two trees/ a wood?* Try to copy these arrangements with model trees.
- Create small laminated signs for children to position on the appropriate place on the map, for example: '4 pigs' by the sty, '5 ducks' on the pond, and so on. Ask children to place the correct number of small world animals beside the signs.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Identify the ploughed fields and discuss why the farmer ploughs them. Talk about what happens to these fields during the farming year. Introduce words such as 'plough', 'sow', 'grow', 'harvest' and 'crop'. Make ploughed fields in a play tray with compost and small world farm vehicles.
- With the poster for reference, create a farm on the floor using carpet squares, fabric and paper to make fields and roads. Add small world buildings, trees, hedges, walls and fences. Invite children to take photographs from different angles to try to recreate the perspective on the poster.

Physical Development

- Invite children to imagine that they work on this farm with a friend and decide what they would most like to do. Perhaps they would like to drive a tractor, or groom a horse? Suggest that they mime their chosen job in pairs and ask others to guess what it is.
- Draw attention to the tracks on the roads and ask what the children notice about them (they are parallel lines). Discuss what sort of vehicles they might see on a farm. Follow one set of the tracks with a finger along a road, into the farmyard and out again. Create similar tracks on paper using small world vehicles dipped in paint.

Creative Development

- Sit around the poster mat after the children have introduced small world resources. Pose situations to encourage them to make up stories together, for example: *This horse has managed to jump over the fence and escape!* Suggest that the children re-enact their story by moving resources around on the mat.
- Discuss the content of the poster and identify key features. Suggest that the children create an extension to the farm layout on a sheet of card with further buildings, roads and fields using paint and collage materials.

Jean Evans is an Early Years consultant and author