

Christmas tree counting

This busy poster is sure to attract the children's interest in the run up to Christmas. As you explore it together, focus on counting the decorations and encourage the children to recall memories of Christmas traditions

Activities across the curriculum

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Ask individual children to say what they like about the poster. Is there a particular object they like? Does the poster make them feel excited about Christmas? What are they looking forward to most? Remember to ensure inclusion of all children by referring to festivals and celebrations from other cultures.
- Sing a song about the poster together to the tune of 'Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush':

*What shall I hang on my Christmas tree?
Christmas tree? Christmas tree?*

*What shall I hang on my Christmas tree?
As Christmas Day is coming.*

I'll hang a star on my Christmas tree...

Continue to add verses about each object in turn in the correct numerical order on the poster and encourage the children to make up appropriate actions.

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Hang the poster alongside plastic numerals, sheets of paper and tools to encourage the children to draw trees and Christmas-related objects, and write numerals. Provide large sheets of paper for the children to work in pairs or small groups to create their own posters.
- Talk about the ten objects along the bottom of the poster and decide together the most appropriate word name for each one. Where there is more than one possibility, for example, 'bow' or 'ribbon' and 'rock' or 'candy', choose the one favoured by the children. Make a set of cards representing the chosen words and leave these in the mark-making area for the children to write labels or captions for their Christmas-related pictures.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Cover the row of objects along the

bottom of the poster. Point to the objects on the Christmas tree and invite the children to count how many there are of each one. Uncover the bottom of the poster to see if they are correct.

- Fill a bag with ten plastic numerals. Invite the children to take turns to pull a number out of the bag and match it to a numeral on the poster. Encourage them to name the associated object and find all of those objects on the Christmas tree.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

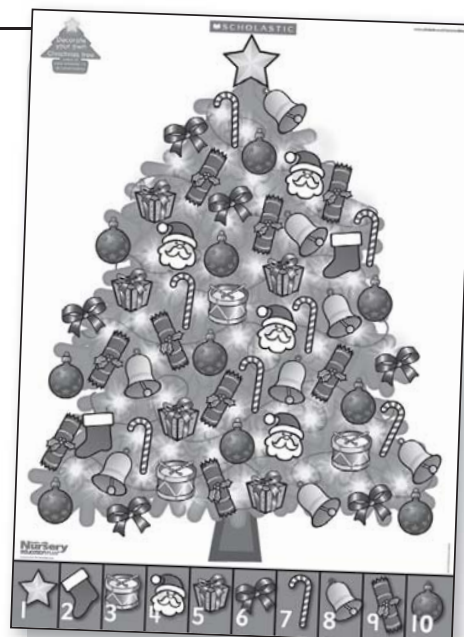
- Search on the internet for images of decorated Christmas trees and look at the similarities and differences between them.
- As you explore the poster together, encourage the children to talk about Christmas trees that they have seen. What do they hang on their Christmas trees at home? Promote inclusion, for example, by asking a child to talk about cleaning and decorating their house in preparation for the festival of Diwali.

Physical Development

- Invite the children to pretend to decorate a similar tree with the objects depicted. Talk the children through their actions, for example, 'Let's stretch up high on tiptoes to put a star on top of the Christmas tree' and 'Let's bend low to hang a bauble on the bottom branch'.
- Provide ten real objects to match those on the poster. Show them to the children, then put the objects into a large 'feely' Christmas stocking. Invite the children to take turns to feel inside the stocking, name an object and describe it, for example, 'In my stocking I can feel a bauble. It is smooth and round'.

Creative Development

- Hang the poster on the wall in the home area and stand a small Christmas tree on a table next to it. Provide the



How to use the poster

Encourage parents to share the poster with their children. Provide some counting activities for them to try.

Invite the children to bring in photographs of Christmas trees to display alongside the poster.

Involve multicultural children by asking for contributions associated with their festivals and celebrations.

Visit www.scholastic.co.uk/nurseryedplus to play the 'Decorate the Christmas tree' game.

online

children with safe decorations, tiny presents and small crackers to decorate it.

- Create a large Christmas tree on a piece of card using strips of fringed, green crêpe paper, and display it next to the poster. Provide collage scraps, small boxes, wrapping paper, card, glitter, sequins, tinsel and other decorative items and encourage the children to create their own 3D Christmas tree poster.

Jean Evans is an early years consultant and author.

