

We love storytime

As World Book Day approaches, there's no better time to use this charming poster to stimulate discussion about the experiences of sharing a story

Activities across the curriculum

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Look at the poster together and talk about the content. What is happening? Do the children look as if they are enjoying the experience? Talk about how it feels to share a story with a special adult and group of friends. Discuss other group activities when the children enjoy sharing experiences, for example, during conversations and mealtimes, or when playing ring games.
- Draw the children's attention to the children on the poster. Do they look the same or are there differences, for example, in hairstyles, skin colour, and choice of clothes? Sensitive talk about the child in the wheelchair and make links with the children's experiences of those with special needs.

Communication and Language Literacy

- Look at the adult in the poster. Why is she holding the book up to face the children? What might the story be about? Talk about how illustrations help us to visualise story events and characters. Read other stories about foxes, for example, *Sly Fox and Red Hen* (Ladybird) or *The Fox's Hiccups* and *One Warm Fox* both by Nick Butterworth (Picture Lions).
- Read the poster title together. Do the children love storytime? Make a list of the children's favourite stories, take a vote for the most popular one and then read it at storytime.

Mathematics

- Compare plain and patterned items on the poster, for example, the lettering and children's clothes. Encourage the children to find spots, stripes and squares and identify colours. Do the same with the children's own clothes. Play a game involving different movements, for example, 'Stand up if you are wearing something with a striped pattern'.
- Put ten small-world children and one adult on the carpet for the children to re-enact the poster scenario. Count how many children are listening to the story on the poster, and remove the characters until there are six. How many did you take away? Pose problems involving adding and taking away characters to make groups of different sizes.

Understanding the World

- Look at and talk about the adult reading a story to the children. Do the children know of any other ways of enjoying a story? Choose a story that has been reproduced as a DVD and CD, such as *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen (Walker Books). Watch the DVD, listen to the CD and read the story to make comparisons between different media.
- Recall discussions about the possible content of the poster story, and ask the children what they might learn about foxes



How to use the poster

Hang the poster in a prominent position in your story area and surround it with the children's artwork and photographs of them enjoying stories. Add captions relating to their comments about storytime. Arrange the children's chosen favourite book titles on a low table, and encourage parents to spend time in the area sharing these stories with their children.

from such a story. Read *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell (Walker Books) and identify from the book what owl babies look like, and find clues about their lifestyle. Discuss which is better, fiction or non-fiction, when finding out facts about living things.

Physical Development

- Look closely at the children on the poster. Talk about how some children are sitting cross-legged, others have straight legs, one is on his knees and another is leaning back. Let the children try sitting in these positions. Which is the most comfortable for relaxing and listening to a story?
- Look at the children's facial expressions on the poster. Do they indicate that they are enjoying the story? Make up story sentences and ask the children to form appropriate facial expressions, for example, 'The prince was cross because he could not climb the castle wall'.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Look at a plain-lettered book title and compare this with the letters on the poster. How are the letters different? Let the children try creating favourite book covers with card using patterned and plain fabric or wallpaper for the title lettering.
- Invite the children to paint, draw or collage a favourite story scene. Display their creations in your story area with captions based on their comments.

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