

The woodland sports day

Display this delightful poster as you read 'The woodland sports day' story. Along with the story, it provides a valuable resource to stimulate imaginary ideas and raise awareness of the importance of regular exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle

Activities across the curriculum

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Look at the image on the poster of the hedgehogs rolling along gathering leaves in their prickly spines, and then let the children try to recreate the 'Hedgehog leaf pick'. Make hedgehogs from small balls and leaves from scraps of felt. Glue small strips of Velcro securely to each item. Have fun taking turns to roll the 'hedgehogs' in the 'leaves' to see which one picks up the most.
- Ask the children to follow the wiggling lines of the rabbits' burrows on the poster. Make your own networks of burrows using equipment such as extending tunnels, barrels and 'A' frames. Invite the children to take turns to pretend to be rabbits crawling along the route.

Communication and Language

- Invite the children to find the image of the owl watching the woodland creatures on their sports day. Is he proud of the success of his idea? Will the creatures be more active from now on? Invite individual children to take on the role of the owl and explain to the rest of the group how they are feeling.
- Read the list of races from the story text and ask the children to identify them on the poster. Do they think the race names are appropriate? Which one do they like best? Can they say why? Suggest that they make up new races and give them suitable names.

Mathematics

- Point to the 'Ant hill build' on the poster. How do the woodland creatures judge which is the tallest? Talk about the wooden measuring stick that they have constructed. Build ant hills in wet sand and measure their height in different ways, for example, using the naked eye, string, rulers and tape measures. Which is the most successful way?
- Look at the arrow shape that the little creature has made from twigs on the poster. Discuss the purpose of arrows and how this arrow directs the scampering rabbits to the burrow. Design a route for an outdoor scamper with chalk arrows to show the way.

Understanding the World

- Draw the children's attention to the woodlice on their 'Woodlice wander'. Describe their winding route along the branch. Put some woodlice in a small tank with some compost, twigs and leaves and watch the routes that they take.
- Invite the children to find the deer sniffing the trees on the poster. What do the children think the trees will smell like? Will the smells of bark, twig, branch and leaf differ? With parental



How to use the poster

Laminate the poster to hang outdoors alongside a selection of equipment suitable for creating exciting race layouts such as planks, boxes, tunnels, flags, canes and cones.

Alternatively, hang the poster in the small-world and construction area to encourage the children to set up their own miniature sports days.



permission, take the children to a local park to explore the features of the trees.

Physical Development

- Invite the children to imitate the movements of the creatures on the poster as they take part in the various races. Which race makes them the most tired? Can they say why? Talk about the importance of keeping fit and bodily changes after exercise.
- Ask the children to bring in shorts, T-shirts and trainers and hold your own sports day. Spend time planning fun races, just as owl did, referring to the story and poster for ideas.

Expressive arts and design

- Read the story and then look at the poster together. Explain that this is the artist's interpretation of the main events. Do they think the artist has been successful? Suggest that the children create their own image of their favourite event in the story using the creative media of their choice.
- Provide the children with a laminated copy of the poster, a Tuff spot or builder's tray filled with wet sand, and a selection of natural materials to create their own woodland sports day. Introduce small-world woodland creatures to take part.

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