

My family

The photographs on this colourful poster will help to raise children's awareness of different family structures. Talk positively about the families portrayed and make links with the children's own families

Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage framework

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Draw the children's attention to the image of the grandparents on the poster. Talk about the role that they might play in their grandchildren's lives. Link this to the children's own grandparents and the special things that they do. Be sensitive to individual circumstances. Invite the children to think of ways in which grandchildren can help their grandparents.
- Look at the bottom right image on the poster and explain that this is a foster family. Talk about the role of foster parents in caring for children temporarily while their parents are in difficult circumstances. Invite the children to think about what foster parents could do to make the children feel at home when they are separated from their families.

Communication and Language Literacy

- Explore the images of a single mum and single dad with their children. Invite the children to say what is special about their own mums and dads. Sensitively deal with questions about why the children pictured have only one parent as their main carer. Be ready to talk about individual circumstances with the children.
- Explain that the images on the poster are photographs from different family albums. Ask parents to send in photographs depicting individual family members, along with a few short sentences about that person. With parental permission, stick the photographs on to balloon-shaped card with a printout of the information given on the back. Suspend the balloons in front of a display at child height, entitled 'Our family members'.

Mathematics

- As you explore the poster, encourage counting skills by asking questions such as 'How many family groups have two, three or four members?', 'How many people are there in your family?'. Use small-world figures to represent the people if necessary.
- Laminate the poster and give each child four coloured counters. Take turns to roll a dice and put a counter on a family group with the corresponding number of members. If the children throw numbers 1 or 5, they will have to wait until their next throw. A counter cannot be put on the same family twice. The winner is the first child to put all four counters on different images, or just play for fun.

Understanding the World

- Explore the images of the Asian and Oriental extended families. Talk about how large families often share a house or live nearby so that they can help each other. Establish where the children's family members live and look at a map when talking



How to use the poster

Create an interactive display entitled 'My family', with the poster as a centrepiece surrounded by the children's artwork depicting their families. Add appropriate children's comments and the EYFS links. On a table below, provide small-world characters to create imaginary families, and books about family life. Alternatively, display the poster in the role-play or small-world area to encourage the children to re-enact scenarios from their own lives and those of imaginary families.

about long distances. Be sensitive to individual circumstances, for example, those who live with one parent and visit another.

- Look for similarities and differences between poster family members, such as facial features and skin colour. Consider how some children look like one or both of their parents. Sensitively answer questions about mixed-race families if they arise.

Physical Development

- Choose one of the images on the poster and make a collage of a similar family using pictures cut from mail-order catalogues. Ask the children to talk about the family that they have created.
- Find the youngest family member on the poster and decide who might be the oldest. Invite the children to pretend to be a baby, child, adult and elderly person in turn, varying their movements appropriately.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Invite the children to use small-world characters to represent the families on the poster. Suggest that they make up names for them and create imaginary scenarios.
- Look at the extended family images on the poster and introduce appropriate words for relations. What do the children call their grandparents? Invite them to paint pictures of their families and write the names of individual members underneath.

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