

# Join in the festival!

Explore this colourful poster depicting a summer street carnival and then read the rhyme, pointing to relevant parts on the poster

## Activities across the curriculum

### Personal, social and emotional development

- Read Verse 4 of the rhyme to the children. Ask questions to determine their understanding of the words 'friends' and 'neighbours'. Ask them if a neighbour can be a friend as well. What do the children's friends and neighbours do to make them smile? Write down their comments and create a display entitled 'Friends and neighbours'.
- Read Verse 5 to the children. Encourage them to talk about their memories of receiving presents and sweets during festivals from their own culture or religion. Identify the festivals and discuss other associated customs.

### Communication, language and literacy

- Read the rhyme and identify the rhyming words 'town' and 'down'. Draw attention to how they end in the same sounds. Change the second line of Verse 2 to 'Walk down and up'. Does this line still rhyme with the second line of Verse 1? Why not? Find other words that end with the letters 'own', such as 'clown', 'frown' and 'gown'. Say them as a rhyming string.
- Develop the children's observational skills, and awareness of initial letter sounds, by playing 'Poster I Spy'. Give them individual objects to find on the poster starting with a given letter, or ask them to find as many different items as they can starting with that letter.

### Mathematical development

- Read the last verse and ask the children what they think 'Day of treats' means. What is a treat? Make up a story together about a day of treats, identifying different times and events during the day when the treats occur, such as breakfast, snack, going to the park and so on. Use mathematical language, for example, 'We had an ice-cream as a treat after we had been to the park', or 'We had a special story as a treat just before bedtime'.
- Draw the children's attention to the image of the child receiving a wrapped present. Is it possible to say what shape it is? What might be inside the present? Make some presents together by wrapping different-sized boxes, balls and tubes in gift wrap and encourage the children to identify their three-dimensional shapes.

### Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Point to the coloured fairy lights on the poster. Hang some working fairy lights around the poster on a display board. What makes the colours shine so brightly? How do the lights work? Discuss some of the uses and dangers of electricity.
- Look at the people on the poster and talk about similarities and differences in their physical appearance and dress.



### Join in the festival!

Dance with the carnival  
Coming into town.

Follow the procession,  
Walk up and down.

Light every lantern,  
Sing every song.

Meet friends and neighbours,  
Smile all day long.

Open all the presents,  
Eat all the sweets.

Join in the festival,  
Today's the day of treats!

Nursery  
education

## Using the poster

As you enjoy the rhyme together, encourage the children to make up appropriate actions.

For example:

**Verse 1** – dance around the room.

**Verse 2** – walk to one end of the room and back again, smiling happily.

**Verse 3** – run about pretending to light lanterns and sing.

**Verse 4** – walk about shaking hands and smiling.

**Verse 5** – pretend to open the presents and eat the sweets.

## Physical development

- Explain the meaning of the word 'procession' in the rhyme and look closely at the image of those involved in the carnival procession. Divide the children into two groups and ask one group to stand in two lines facing each other, clapping and cheering, while the other group walk between them singing, dancing and playing percussion instruments. Reverse roles and repeat the activity.
- Find the image of the man on stilts. Introduce the word 'balance' and discuss the meaning. Invite older children to try balancing on small, upturned buckets with strings attached for them to hold on to. Encourage younger children to pretend to balance on stilts.

## Creative development

- Explore the images of the carnival participants. Provide brightly coloured dressing-up clothes, play some lively dance music and encourage the children to invent their own carnival dances.
- Draw attention to the words 'Light every lantern' in the rhyme and then tell and re-enact the Diwali story of how Rama and Sita followed lights in windows to find their way home.

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