

Count to 10

Children will delight in exploring the small-world characters on this colourful poster. Transform it into a fascinating resource to encourage counting and number recognition

Activities across the curriculum

Personal, social and emotional development

- Invite the children to look closely at each of the characters depicted on the poster and encourage them to take turns to say which one they would most like to be and give their reasons why.
- Make up a scenario, for example, you are lost in a street, and ask the children to find someone on the poster who might be able to help you in that situation. Extend the discussion beyond the poster to other people who help us, for example, when we are ill and so on.

Communication, language and literacy

- Encourage the children to choose two different characters from the poster and work as a group to make up a story about them. Use small-world characters to re-enact the initial ideas and then let the children illustrate the main events while you scribe the words for them. Create books about your stories and display them in your book corner.
- Make up a song based on 'Five little men in a flying saucer' (see www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies). Use the poster characters and their accessories to plan the verses, for example, 'Ten train drivers in a fast, blue train, chuffed through the town one day' or 'Nine postmen with big, fat parcels walked around the town one day'. Make the finished song into a counting book.

Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy

- Encourage the children to look at the numbers on the left of the poster by asking questions, for example, 'Can you tell me how many zookeepers there are on the poster without counting?', 'How do you know?'. Let them check by counting the figures.
- Ask questions such as 'Are there more

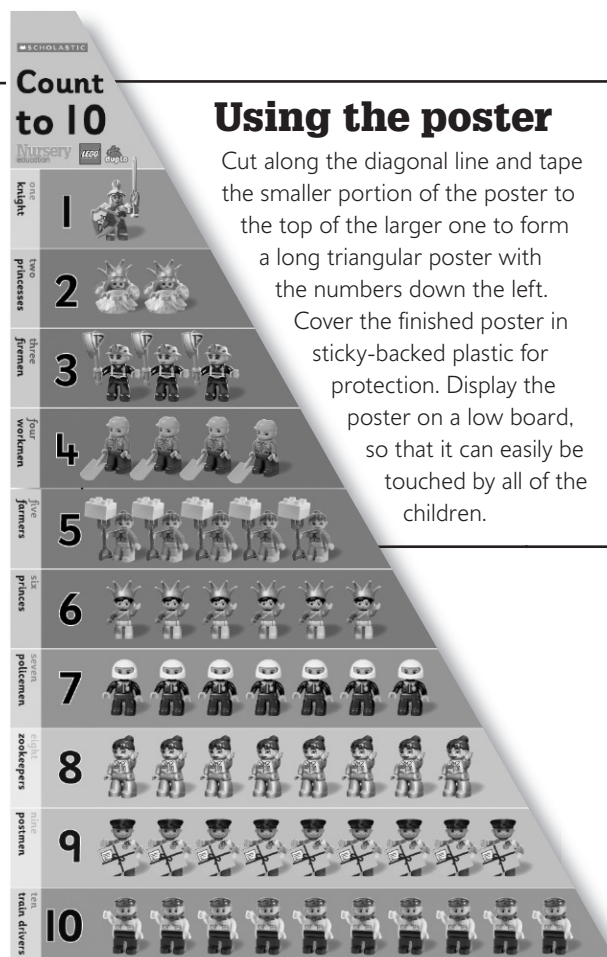
princes or princesses?', 'How many more princesses would you need so that all of the princes can marry a princess?'. Use your own small-world characters as well as referring to the poster. Allow the children to touch the poster or the small-world figures as they count

Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Focus on the poster characters' occupations and ask questions, such as 'Can you find two different kinds of people on the poster who work with animals?'. Compare and contrast the roles of the zookeeper and the farmer.
- Ask the children to identify the people on the poster that they might see locally, for example, postmen. Ask who they are unlikely to see, for example, a knight.

Physical development

- Talk about the kind of transport that the different poster characters would use such as a horse, golden coach or train. Create mimes to music representing the different characters as they are travelling.
- Play a game using a home-made spinner marked in ten numbered sections. When the spinner stops, invite the children to pretend to be the relevant poster character at work. How will they move? Will they carry any special tools or equipment?



Using the poster

Cut along the diagonal line and tape the smaller portion of the poster to the top of the larger one to form a long triangular poster with the numbers down the left. Cover the finished poster in sticky-backed plastic for protection. Display the poster on a low board, so that it can easily be touched by all of the children.

Creative development

- Invite the children to dress up your own small-world characters to look like those depicted on the poster, using scraps of fabric and collage materials. For example, a tiny gold paper crown for a prince or princess or brown paper to make a parcel for a postman to hold.
- Provide a box of hats and assorted dressing-up clothes and a box of accessories relevant to the characters on the poster. Invite the children to choose a hat, outfit and accessory to become one of the characters while the others try to guess who it is.

Jean Evans is an early years consultant and author.

