

Things to do in December

This fun-packed poster from Nursery Ted is bursting with activities for the children to enjoy during this exciting, festive month

Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage framework

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Draw the children's attention to Ted's 'Welcome' sign. Why is Ted saying 'Happy Christmas'? Identify festive images on the poster relating to Christmas and link them to the children's personal experiences of the festival.
- Read Ted's 'Winter wander' activity and suggest following his idea. Ask the children to help to make some soup the day before your walk and toast some crust fingers just before the walk. With parental permission, put on your coats, scarves, hats and gloves and go for a wander in your locality (or outdoor area). Focus on the children's sensory experiences during the walk.

Communication and Language

- Take photographs of the children carrying out the activities on the poster and ask the children to draw pictures of themselves. Create an accompanying book entitled 'Things we did in December'. Add captions under the images.
- Point out the speech bubbles on the Nursery Ted story strip and read the words inside them. Talk about how capital letters and an exclamation mark are used to emphasise the need to read the word 'SLAM!' loudly. Explore other similar story strips.

Mathematics

- Encourage the children to look carefully at the poster to find the holly sprigs and robins. Count how many there are of each. Are there more holly sprigs or more robins? Do the same with the coloured baubles on the Christmas tree behind Ted.
- Complete the 'Spot the difference' activity. Ask the children to find the five differences and then check that they are correct by reading the words underneath the pictures.

Understanding the World

- Look closely at the box entitled 'What is it?'. Encourage the children to try to identify what they can see. Cut out squares from other festive or winter images for the children to try to identify, for example, a snowman or Christmas tree. Return the square to the original image to see if they are correct.
- Look at the image of the mince pies on the poster and encourage the children to identify the pastry shape on top of them. Buy the ingredients and make mincemeat together. Use this in your own mince pies, or give small jars of it as presents.

Physical Development

- Create a house from a cardboard box. Provide the children with child-safe scissors and ask them to cut white shredded paper into even tinier pieces to make pretend snow. Read Ted's



How to use the poster

Create an area where the children can focus on what happens in December, particularly preparations for Christmas. Drape green and red fabrics across a display board and attach the poster to the board through fabric, along with small red and green baubles, holly sprigs and the children's artwork. Hang strings of tinsel from the ceiling in front of the display.

Below the display, drape a table with white fabric, and sit a large teddy bear dressed in winter clothes to represent Nursery Ted in the centre. Arrange items associated with the poster and Christmas around Ted, such as plastic snowstorms and storybooks.

Let parents explore the display with their children.

story strip and suggest that they re-enact it using their paper snow, box house and soft toys. Pour the 'snow' over the 'house' and use the toys as Ted and Toby. Shake the house when Toby slams the door and tip the snow all over Ted.

- Help the children to follow Ted's instructions to make 'Swirling snowstorms'. Display them on a crumpled 'snowy' white sheet so that the children can make comparisons before taking them home as Christmas presents.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Read the story strip 'Nursery Ted and the snowbear'. What did Ted want to do? What happened at the end of the story? Invite two children to pretend to be Ted and Toby playing in the snow and encourage them to extend the storyline.
- Look at the pattern along the sides and bottom of the poster, which create a festive border. Invite the children to make a border around their December artwork by printing repeat patterns using festive or winter shapes. Encourage them to consider the colours to use and if desired add glitter while the paint is still wet.

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