

Outdoor toys

The children in the poster are playing with outdoor toys. Encourage discussion about the images and the children's experiences of playing with outdoor toys

Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage framework

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Ask the children to decide what the poster is about. Establish the outdoor toy theme and invite the children to talk about their favourite outdoor toys. Where might they go to use swings and rocking horses? Where do they ride on bikes and scooters?
- Look at the boy riding a scooter on the poster. Why is he wearing a helmet? Should the boy on the bicycle be wearing a helmet? What else could the children wear to protect themselves when playing with outdoor toys? Search the internet for images of people wearing helmets and knee and elbow pads. If possible, explore some real examples.

Literacy

- Invite the children to create a title for the poster and add captions. Ask them to create a list of words for the toys and the children's movements, for example, 'riding', 'driving', 'swinging', 'bouncing', 'scooting' and 'rocking'. Use Velcro to attach the words in appropriate positions on the poster. Play games involving removing the words, reading them and putting them back again.
- Make up a story together about an individual character from the poster. Where are they? What might happen next? Extend this to writing stories about the children's own experiences with outdoor toys.

Mathematics

- Use appropriate mathematical language as you ask questions about the content of the poster, for example, 'Which toys move along the ground?', 'Which toy goes high in the air and rocks backwards and forwards?', 'Which toy is in the middle picture on the bottom row?'
- Use the poster to encourage counting, for example, how many children there are, and then how many children are riding/swinging/rocking and so on.

Understanding the World

- Explore the image of the boy riding a bicycle. Is he riding fast or slow? Where is he riding? Look at the background. Is it easy to see the detail of the trees and bushes? Explain how, when we move very fast, it is more difficult to see detail. Consider the view from a train window when travelling at speed, or watch a short film of some racing cars.
- Compare the images of the outdoor toys on the poster. Encourage the children to think about how they work. If possible, let the children try out some real examples. How are they different from the toys that they play with indoors?



How to use the poster

Display the poster where the children get ready for outdoor play, or laminate it so that it can be hung outdoors.

Alternatively, create an interactive display entitled 'Outdoor toys' with the poster as the centrepiece surrounded by the children's artwork, photographs of outdoor play, pictures of outdoor toys cut from catalogues, appropriate labels and captions, and EYFS links. Arrange some outdoor toys on the floor space around it.

Physical Development

- Invite the children to carry out the movements needed to play with the toys on the poster, for example, pedalling, scooting or bouncing. Encourage the children to try riding these toys before describing all of the body movements made.
- Ask the children what the poster images have in common and then focus on the outdoor exercise aspect. Discuss how exercise and fresh air is good for growing bodies. Talk about the changes that they feel after playing vigorously on these toys.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Make up a song relating to the poster with actions to the tune of Old MacDonald Had a Farm:

*'Six young children went to play,
Out of doors today,
One went riding on a bike,
Having fun this way,
With a pedal, pedal here and a pedal, pedal there...'*
- Suggest that the children create a group poster entitled 'Outdoor toys'. Spread a large sheet of paper on the floor and let them paint it green. Add paper-strip paths. Invite them to paint pictures of themselves using outdoor toys, cut them out and glue them on the poster. Add captions dictated by the children.

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