

Wish you were here...?

Stimulate the children to recall summer holidays and outings by exploring the colourful photographs on this poster.

Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage

Personal, social and emotional development

- Explore the poster images and consider why we take photographs on holidays and outings. Talk about where the poster photographs might have been taken. Which place on the poster would the children most like to visit and why?
- Focus on the child carrying a basket of strawberries. How do the children think he is feeling? Why does he look so pleased? Encourage children to recall experiences of picking or choosing fruit, perhaps at a 'Pick your own' farm, in a garden, or at a market. Enjoy tasting ripe strawberries and other summer fruits.

Communication and language and Literacy

- Read the title of the poster and draw attention to the question mark. Introduce the children to some question 'starters', for example, how, where, what. Make up questions about the poster, for example, *What colour are the flowers?* Ask the children to make up their own questions for others to answer.
- After exploring the poster photographs, make a book entitled 'Wish you were here...?' using the children's holiday photographs and help them to write their own captions.

Mathematics

- Gather together a wide selection of photographs beforehand. Ask children to point to the poster photographs that depict people/children/castles/water. Explain that you want them to sort your photographs into different piles to stick into albums. Look at the photographs together and decide upon suitable categories for sorting, such as 'people', 'places', 'animals'.
- Look at the image of a sandcastle with a flag flying. Does anyone know the name of the flag? Talk about the colours and patterns on it. Explore different images of flags before providing children with paper, pens, glue and sticks to design their own flags to put on castles in the sand tray.

Understanding of the world

- Ask the children to take photographs of exciting activities and outings planned by your setting. Demonstrate how to view them on a computer and then print a chosen selection. Using the poster for inspiration, create a display entitled 'Wish you were here...?'
- Look at the poster and decide where the places in the photographs might be, for example, 'by the sea', 'in the countryside'. Ask parents to send in photographs (with place names on the back) and postcards depicting places in the British Isles. Spread a map of the British Isles on the floor and sit around it with your collection of images. Read the place names or the postcard postmarks and help the children to link them to appropriate places on the map.



How to use the poster

Create a large display with the 'Wish you were here...?' poster as a centrepiece, then surround it with a wide selection of children's holiday photographs, which they have brought in to share. Add EYFS links and individual captions suggested by the children. Display the poster in creative or role-play areas to stimulate mark-making and imaginary play.

Physical development

- Ask the children to find the two photographs that depict castles. Identify the real castle and the sandcastle and discuss similarities and differences between them. Talk about the children's experiences of visiting real castles and of making sandcastles. Provide a selection of buckets and containers and ask children to make castles in the sand tray.
- After exploring the poster, suggest how the photographs depicted could be reused, for example to make jigsaws or a montage, or to tell a story. Recycle some old photographs by asking the children to cut them into simple jigsaws with two, three or four pieces, make them into story books or use them as a large montage to decorate the home area.

Expressive arts and design

- Invite children to mime the movements of the people in the photographs, for example, lying back and relaxing in the water, pretending to pick strawberries and put them in a basket or dancing through flowers.
- Explore the way the poster is presented with a patterned background, a title and an arrangement of photographs depicting a particular theme. Choose a theme from your photograph collection, such as 'funny photographs', and create a group poster from a large sheet of card. Paint a suitable background and invent a title, such as 'Have a laugh'.

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