

# Fun and Sports

Encourage children to identify the nursery rhyme characters on the poster and follow the pictorial clues to explore the common theme of 'Fun and Sports'

## Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Explore the facial expressions of the nursery rhyme characters. Are they having fun? Which of the activities do the children think would be the most fun to take part in? Discuss children's past experiences of sports activities and fun days.
- Find Jack and Jill together and discuss why the race they are taking part in is called a 'three-legged race'. Talk about different sports activities that involve sharing, such as throwing and catching a ball or playing in a team game. Discuss what is special about sharing.

### Communication, Language and Literacy

- Ask the children how they are able to identify the nursery rhyme characters in the poster, for example, the shape of Humpty and the Man in the Moon. Discuss the importance of illustration in giving us extra information about story book characters.
- Read the poster title, 'Fun and Sports', together and discuss its suitability. Invite the children to suggest alternatives that give more precise information, such as 'Fun and sports in nursery rhyme land'. Identify the letters on the banner below and discuss what they have in common (all capitals). Recap on the capital letters at the start of children's names and see if any of these are included in the word 'CELEBRATE'.

### Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Identify which of the poster activities can only be enjoyed in pairs (three-legged race). Discuss the meaning of the word 'pair' and consider other activities that need two people, such as leapfrog or a wheelbarrow race. Provide equipment, such as bats, balls and beanbags, and invite children to invent games, playing first in twos, then threes, fours and so on.
- Explore the poster for recognisable shapes, such as the circular hoop, oval egg and triangular flags. Help the children to cut out paper triangles and attach them to a banner to suspend indoors or outdoors as bunting. Decide what to write on the triangles, putting a letter in each flag as in the poster.

### Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Ask the children in which season they think the nursery rhyme characters are holding their celebration (point out flowers and summer clothes). Discuss why sports days, fetes, galas and fun days are usually held in summer and invite children to recall personal experiences of attending such events.
- Focus on the hoop in the poster and talk about why it is ideal for rolling along. Invite children to consider other objects that roll easily, such as a wheel, pipe and cardboard tube. Try rolling a range of items, such as a box, toy car, spoon and cotton reel,



### How to use the poster

Display the poster as a centrepiece for an informative display about a proposed family 'Fun and Sports' day with a nursery rhyme theme. Create labels outlining activities to be enjoyed, for example, 'Humpty's it's a knockdown!'.

Hang the laminated poster outdoors above a range of sports equipment, such as hoops, balls and bean bags, for children to make up their own novelty races and activities.

down a slope and then sort them into two piles – 'will roll', 'will not roll'. Comment on the effectiveness of the design of small equipment, such as balls, bats, shuttlecocks and quoits, for their intended purpose.

### Physical Development

- Hang the poster outdoors alongside a range of dressing-up clothes and props so that the children can re-enact what they see.
- Talk about how some sports involve careful balance, such as holding an egg and spoon or jumping in a sack. Set up an obstacle course to develop children's balancing skills, for example, walking along a low bench, then carrying a bean bag on your head and finally hopping in and out of hoops.

### Creative Development

- Identify what the poster characters have in common (they all feature in nursery rhymes). Point to one of the characters and say the associated nursery rhyme together. Ask children to think of other nursery rhymes they enjoy and decide upon a group favourite.
- After exploring the poster, suggest that the children draw, paint or collage pictures of their favourite nursery rhyme character taking part in a sports activity. Display the finished artwork around the poster.

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