

# Jack and the Beanstalk height chart

This poster has been designed to create a colourful height chart based on the traditional story, 'Jack and the Beanstalk'

## Activities across the curriculum

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Look at the expressions of Jack and the giant on the height chart. Discuss how they might be feeling. Does Jack look brave or worried as he climbs upwards? Does the giant look angry or puzzled? Encourage the children to talk about how they would feel if they were Jack or the giant in this situation.
- Invite the children and adults to stand in front of the height chart to be measured. Record their heights on name labels and attach them to the height chart with Blu-Tack®. Discuss varying heights and encourage respect for these differences.

### Literacy Communication and Language

- Hang the height chart in the story corner and refer to it as you tell or read the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Encourage the children to use it as a memory aid when telling their own versions.
- Look at the height chart together and ask the children to recall what happens when Jack reaches the top of the beanstalk. Invite them to make up new versions of the story based on the illustrations, for example, a lonely giant inviting Jack and the cats to come for tea.

### Mathematics

- As you explore the height chart together, ask questions to

encourage comparison of height or size, for example, 'Who is the tallest – Jack or the giant?', 'Are the cats bigger or smaller than the caterpillars?' and so on.

- Count the different creatures on the height chart and ask simple counting problems such as, 'Are there more caterpillars or bees?', 'How many spiders can you see?' and so on.

### Understanding the World

- As you explore the beanstalk together, invite the children to point to large and small leaves, tendrils, smaller stalks and the main beanstalk. Explain how tendrils curl around nearby objects, such as fences, to anchor the beanstalk.
- Provide dry broad beans for the children to soak overnight and then plant. Create a 'growing area' where they can observe and measure their growing beanstalks. Display the height chart alongside and provide appropriate books.

### Physical Development

- Display the height chart near a climbing frame. Encourage the children to pretend to be Jack or the giant. Discuss the difference between the views at the bottom and top of the frame.
- What might Jack have seen from the top of the beanstalk?
- Talk about the different stages in the growth of a beanstalk. Invite the children to pretend to be beans growing into beanstalks. Encourage lots of stretching and curling,

## Using the poster

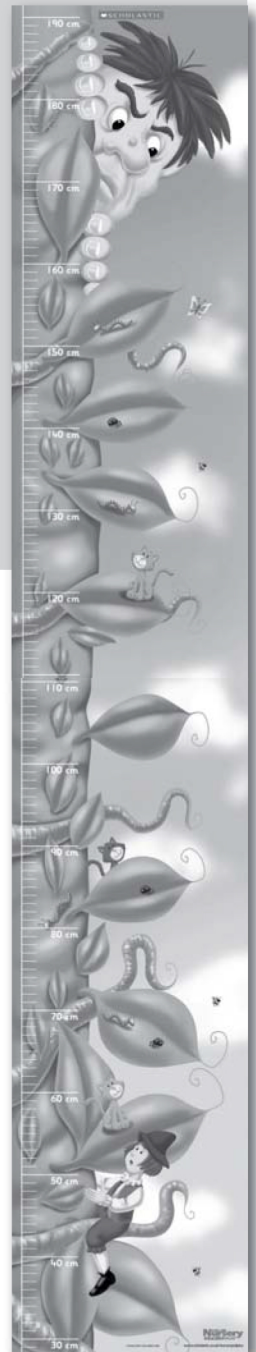
- Cut the poster down the centre and laminate the two strips. Join the strips together with clear sticky tape across the bottom of one and the top of the other to complete the height chart.
- Create a 'Measuring area' by attaching the finished height chart to a wall, making sure that it starts 30cm from the floor. Leave space at either side and use one side to record the heights of the children and adults, and fasten a wide strip of card to the other so that the children can record measurements of themselves or objects of their choosing. Include materials and resources such as labels and Blu-Tack®.
- Provide a selection of measuring tools such as tape measures, rulers, string and metre sticks in boxes alongside the height chart for the children to explore further.

for example, when creating movements to represent tendrils.

### Expressive Arts and Design

- Lay a roll of wallpaper along the floor with the underside uppermost. Provide a selection of drawing and painting materials for the children to create a long beanstalk. Encourage them to refer to the height chart for ideas about the shapes of the leaves and tendrils. Hang the finished beanstalk on a wall.
- Provide a range of interesting materials for the children to create printed beanstalk pictures, for example, a log to paint and roll along for the stalk, string to dip in paint for tendrils and sponge scraps for leaves.

**Jean Evans** is an early years consultant and author.



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