

Winter

This poster featuring winter scenes and young children enjoying themselves on a cold winter's day will encourage recall of similar experiences, or lead to excited anticipation of coming snowy days

Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage framework

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Focus on the excited faces of the three boys riding downhill on a sledge. Encourage the children to talk about any experiences of such excitement they have had, perhaps on their own sledges, on a large slide or a helter-skelter.
- Invite a child to pretend to be someone or something from the poster, for example, a child, robin, tree or snowman, and talk about how winter feels from this perspective.

Communication and Language

- Look at the two children communicating on the central image at the bottom of the poster. What do the children think they are talking about? Could they be discussing the snowman that they have made? In pairs, encourage the children to pretend to be the children on the poster and make up a conversation.
- Adapt the traditional rhyme, *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*, to link with the poster and add appropriate actions, for example, 'This is the way we build a snowman, on a cold and frosty morning'.

Mathematics

- Explore the images of the children on sledges. How many are on each sledge? Use rectangular wooden blocks as sledges and move small-world people on and off them. Ask mathematical questions such as, 'There are four children on the sledge and two jump off. How many children are left on the sledge?'.
- Talk about the clothes that the children on the poster are wearing to go outside on this cold winter's day. Provide a selection of clothes and encourage the children to sort them into two piles suitable for summer and winter outdoor play.

Understanding the World

- Point to the image of the robin on a frozen bird-bath. Explain that some birds fly to warmer countries in winter but others stay behind. Set up a bird station in your outdoor area to provide food and water for winter birds.
- Make comparisons between the two sledges on the poster (one is plastic and the other is wooden with metal runners). How does a sledge work? If possible, explore this using dolls on plastic tray sledges on snowy slopes, or pull them with string over snow or ice.

Physical Development

- Discuss the image of a child putting a star on a woodland tree decorated with snow. What kind of tree is it? Invite the children to recall experiences of decorating Christmas trees. Create



How to use the poster

Drape a white sheet over a display board and a table underneath, and crumple it slightly to represent snow. Display the poster in the centre of the board and surround it with winter photographs, images from web searches and the children's artwork. Make a snowman's body from a stuffed pillowcase, tie on a white balloon head and add features and accessories. Sit the snowman on the table surrounded by winter clothing. Arrange a sledge, boots and snow spades on the floor below.

Alternatively, display the poster in the home area along with suitable winter clothing, or in the creative area, to inspire winter-themed child-initiated activities.

Christmas table decorations by pushing a twig into a pot of clay, paint it white, then sprinkle glitter on to the wet paint. Glue on stars, coloured sweet wrappers and foil.

- The children on the poster look warm as they have appropriate clothes, but what else could they do to keep their bodies warm? Invite the children to pretend to be these children trying out different movements to make themselves feel warmer, for example, jumping, running, swinging arms or pretending to build a snowman.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Look at the snowman on the poster. If possible, go outside to make one with real snow. Alternatively, make clay snowmen, paint them white, add features and accessories, and stand them on a crumpled white fabric sheet.
- Look at the poster and talk about how the images show us it is winter. Look through seasonal magazines for winter wildlife images, from the RSPB or National Trust for example, and clothing catalogues for images of children in winter outfits. Let the children cut these out and arrange them on a large sheet of paper to create individual winter posters.

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