

Christmas

The following activities assist in meeting the early learning goals:

- Personal, social and emotional development (PSE)
- Knowledge and understanding of the world (KUW)
- Communication, language and literacy (CLL)
- Creative development (CD)
- Mathematical development (MD)
- Physical development (PD)

Suggested teaching and learning activities

- Children hear the story of the angel's visit to Mary (CLL); talk about what they think angels might be (PSE) (CLL); discuss how Mary might feel and why the baby might be special (PSE) (CLL); light a candle and say a prayer about the angel's message (PSE) (CLL)
- they hear the story of the journey to Bethlehem (CLL); a donkey might visit school (KUW); children ride the donkey (KUW) (PD); talk about journeys the children have made (PSE) (KUW) (CLL); talk about waiting for a baby to be born (PSE) (KUW) (CLL); light a candle and say a prayer about waiting for the baby to be born (PSE) (CLL)
- set up a crib in the classroom, adding figures as the story progresses (CD); create a stable area in the classroom with dressing up clothes, a manger and baby doll, toy sheep, cow and donkey (CD); tell the story of Jesus' birth (CLL); talk about the excitement of a new baby (PSE) (CLL); talk about why the baby Jesus is special (PSE) (CLL); light a candle and say a prayer about the birth of Jesus (PSE) (CLL)
- tell the story of the visit of the shepherds (CLL); talk about the work of shepherds (KUW) and what gift they could give to Jesus (CLL); make woolly sheep (CD); light a candle and say a prayer about the shepherds' visit (PSE) (CLL)
- tell the story of the visit of the wise men (CLL); talk about what it is to be wise (PSE) (CLL); talk about how far they would have travelled (KUW) and how far the children have travelled (CLL) (MD); talk about what gifts they would give to Jesus (PSE) (CLL); look at something which is made of gold (KUW); let children smell incense (KUW); light a candle and say a prayer about gifts to give to Jesus (PSE) (CLL)
- set up a Christmas tree in the classroom (CD); make decorations (CD); look at and make Christmas cards (CD); learn a Christmas song or carol (CLL) (CD); talk about how the children will celebrate Christmas (PSE) (CLL); light a candle and say a prayer about the joy of Christmas (PSE) (CLL)

Expectations at the end of the Foundation Stage

Pupils should:

- be familiar with the name 'Jesus';
- begin to understand that Jesus is important for some people;
- know that some stories are sacred to some people and be able to remember some of them;
- recognise that some stories and objects are used by some people to help them think about God and Jesus;
- know that some people who believe in God want to talk to God;
- begin to talk about Jesus;
- begin to use some religious words in an appropriate context;
- begin to talk about their own ideas about themselves and other people;
- begin to recognise their own and others' worth as individuals;
- be able to raise questions which show that they are beginning to develop an enquiring approach to life;
- begin to be aware of themselves in relationship with others;
- begin to respond to their own experiences;
- be aware of how they, and others, are feeling;
- begin to be able to express their feelings.