



CHINESE NEW YEAR DISPLAY IDEAS

Mathematical development

GOOD LUCK!

Early Learning Goal

Use developing mathematical ideas and methods to solve practical problems.

Group Size

Contributions by whole group.

Support and Extension

Younger children could make just one drawing or painting to add to the display. Alternatively, take photographs of them in active play to place alongside their craftwork.

What you need:

A collection of children's work made in previous activities, such as paper dragons, New Year cards, lucky money envelopes, lion masks, paintings, lanterns, Chinese animal wheel (see page 10), paper-cut pictures, couplets and festival food circle (see page 12); photographs of children dressed in Chinese costume; drawings of door gods; fabrics with Chinese designs; Chinese artefacts, chopsticks; bamboo steamer; ginger jar; wok; Chinese bowls and spoons; bowl of noodles; bowl of prawn crackers; root ginger; Chinese dressing-up clothes; dark-green backing paper; red paper; gold paint; red or gold border paper; staple gun (adult use); acetate and overhead projector; books about Chinese New Year.

Preparation

Draw pictures of door gods on to acetate, then enlarge them by projecting the image on to paper that has been taped to the wall. Draw around the outline then paint them with gold paint. Cut large letters

from red paper to spell out the words 'Chinese New Year'. Draw Chinese script on to strips of paper to make a border (or paint the words 'Chinese New Year' in brush strokes to look like Chinese script).

What to do

- Use red and gold – the colours of good luck – for your display. The dark background will show up the items.
- Cover a display board with backing paper and staple the border in place.
- Arrange letters in an arc across the top of the display to make the words 'Chinese New Year'.

- Involve the children in the design of the display, using appropriate positional language. Discuss symmetry. Talk about circles, squares, rectangles and the properties of different shapes. Ask questions such as: 'Which is the triangular lantern?' and 'What shape is the New Year card?'
- Tell the children why the door gods are so important (see page 17). Attach a big door god on either side of the display area so that it will 'protect' the display.
- In the centre, display the children's work including the 'Chinese animal wheel' and 'Festival food circle'.
- Arrange the remaining art, crafts and costumes in the space.
- Place a small table in front of the display, cover it with a red tablecloth, and place suitable books, artefacts, utensils and bowls of food on the table.
- String lanterns from the ceiling in front of the display board.



Further Ideas

- Sponge-print large sheets of sugar paper with yellow or gold paint to make Chinese-themed background paper.
- Invite the children to make hand-prints all over a long length of plain wall paper. Cut out a dragon's body and head from the paper then attach to the board to make a 3-D figure. Staple the lower part of the body to the board and lightly pack with bubble wrap before stapling the upper part.