

The Teddy Bears' Picnic

This busy poster depicts happy bears enjoying a group picnic. Sing the song with the children and encourage exploration of tiny detail, from the various actions of the bears to the minibeasts going about their daily life

Activities across the curriculum

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Talk with the children about what the teddies on the poster are having for their picnic. Play a memory game based on the contents of the picnic on the poster. Ask the children to take turns to think of a picnic item and then add this to a list, pointing to each child around the circle as they do so, for example, 'We went on a picnic and Mia brought a banana, Scott brought a sandwich,' and so on.
- Emphasise the song words, 'They love to play and shout, They never have any cares'. Suggest that the picnic day is one of the happiest days for the teddies. Ask the children to talk about their happiest days and what they did on them.

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Discuss what has happened to the kite in the poster. It seems to be stuck in the tree and three bears are trying to get it down. Ask the children to make up a story about what happens next.
- Tell the children that the lyrics for the song were written by a man called Jimmy Kennedy. Explain that a person who writes music for a song is called a composer. Introduce the word 'illustrator' in the context of the poster.

Mathematics

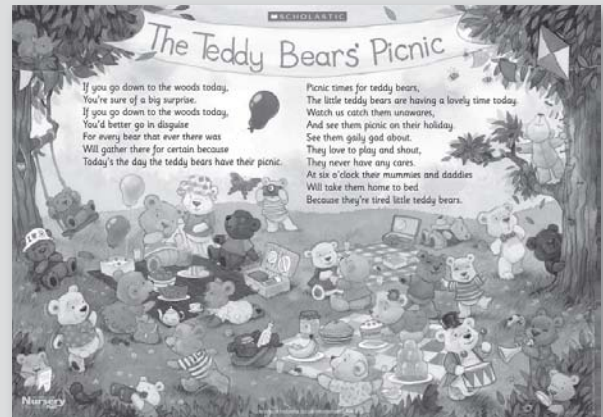
- Draw the children's attention to the words: 'At six o'clock their mummies and daddies will take them home to bed'. Talk about the times that the children go to bed and take part in other daily routines. Set up a timeline with a length of string and move a bead along it as the day progresses.
- Develop the children's observational and counting skills with appropriate questions, for example, 'How many picnic blankets are there for the teddies?' and 'How many teddies are asleep?'.

Understanding of the World

- Point out the teddies on the poster who are looking for wildlife. Pack a bag with similar resources, such as a notepad, pencil, binoculars, camera and magnifying glass, and let the children use them during outdoor exploration.
- Explore the poster for signs of woodland life and make a list. Invite the children to suggest other creatures that the illustrator could have included, using books and websites to help them.

Physical Development

- Explore the meaning of 'You'd better go in disguise' and 'Watch them catch them unawares'. Why should we disguise ourselves before looking for the teddies? Explain that they might be frightened. Suggest that the children camouflage themselves by draping themselves in green and brown fabrics.



How to use the poster

Display the poster together with some teddies and a recording of the 'The Teddy Bears' Picnic' song (<https://education.scholastic.co.uk/resources/50406>). Encourage the children to listen to the song, discuss the poster and sing and dance with the teddies.

Hang the poster in different play areas, such as the home, creative or small-world areas, to stimulate child-initiated ideas relating to the song.

Go outdoors and invite half of the children to disguise themselves and hide quietly among vegetation or large equipment, while others pretend to be teddies having a picnic. If a teddy spots a child, that child must come out of hiding. The last one to be spotted is the most successful at 'catching teddies unawares'.

- Invite the children to identify the games that the teddies are playing during their picnic, such as flying a kite, swinging, dancing and playing with balls. Talk about how being active helps us to keep fit. Ask the children to think of active games to play outdoors and make comparisons.

Expressive arts and design

- Explain that 'The Teddy Bears' Picnic' is a song rather than a rhyme. Read the poster words as a rhyme and then sing them, or play a recording. Which do the children prefer? Try singing and saying favourite nursery rhymes.
- Split the song into four events: 1 Children in disguise looking for bears; 2 Teddies eating a picnic; 3 Teddies playing games; 4 Teddies going home to bed. Invite small groups of children to paint a picture of each event. Create a storyboard using the pictures, with the poster at the end. Add a caption to each picture.

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