

Celebrate with style

During November enjoy these exciting Divali activities and provide opportunities to develop fine and gross motor skills

Pretty patterns

Stepping Stone: manipulate materials to achieve a planned effect (PD).

Early Learning Goal: handle tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control (PD).

Group size: up to ten children.

What you need

Examples of rangoli patterns (copy from books or draw your own on to A4 paper, then photocopy); glue; spreaders; resources and pictures related to Divali, including posters, music, cards, divas and videos; colouring materials including chalks, pens, crayons, paints, coloured sand and pastels.

What to do

- Enjoy sharing your Divali resources. Tell the children that you are going to make some rangoli patterns using lots of different equipment and techniques.
- Give each child a sheet of rangoli patterns. Invite the children to choose how they would like to decorate their patterns, using the materials available.
- If using sand, demonstrate how to spread glue on one section of pattern at a time and carefully sprinkle on sand using a finger and thumb pincer grip.
- If using chalk, demonstrate how to achieve a smooth effect by smudging and spreading it with your finger.

- If you have a paved outdoor area, go outside and enjoy the activity on a larger scale! Draw a faint outline in white chalk and invite the children to draw over it using coloured chalks, then fill in the outline with coloured sand. Encourage them to do this by filling beakers or pots with sand and carefully sprinkling it inside the chalked lines.

Support and extension

Provide simplified patterns for younger children to copy. Encourage older children to create their own symmetrical rangoli patterns on paper, peg boards or squared paper.

Home links

- Encourage the children to look at symmetrical patterns in homes, buildings and nature and to draw and share with the group.



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Divali dance

Stepping Stone: experiment with different ways of moving (PD).

Early Learning Goal: move with confidence, imagination and in safety (PD).

Group size: up to ten children.

What you need

Pictures and posters depicting the Divali story; Divali cards; book such as *The Divali Small Book* by Anita Ganeri and Carole Gray (Evans Brothers); appropriate music such as *The Rough Guide to the Music of India and Pakistan* (World Music Network), (available from Religion in Evidence, freephone: 0800-318686); CD player or tape recorder.

Preparation

Invite Hindu parents, practitioners or visitors to your setting to perform a dance for the children.

What to do

- If possible, enjoy a performance from an Indian

dancer, child, parent or practitioner or simply enjoy talking about the story of Divali, making good use of the posters, pictures and music.

- Ask the children what kinds of things they might do to show that they are really happy or excited about something. Some may suggest jumping for joy, smiling, shouting and dancing.
- Talk about how happiness and stories can be conveyed through dance. Emphasise this by inviting the children to sing the traditional song 'If You're Happy and You Know it'.
- Play some Indian music, and encourage the children to make up their own happy dances, either individually or in pairs.
- Invite your visitor or parents to watch the children's dances.

Support and extension

Encourage younger children to work in pairs and to watch each other for ideas. Invite older children to demonstrate and perform their dance individually or in pairs to the rest of the group.

Further ideas

- Have a 'Follow-my-leader Divali dance' where the children follow and copy their friends' dance movements.
- Make colourful bead bangles to wear for your Divali dance.

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