

Scare those crows!

Bring the countryside indoors with this colourful display of fields, wheat and scarecrows

Stepping Stone: make constructions, collages, paintings and drawings (CD).

Early Learning Goal: explore colour, texture, shape, form and space in two or three dimensions (CD).

Group size: whole group, small groups and individuals.

What you need

Tattybogle by Sandra Horn and Ken Brown (Hodder Children's Books); gold, green and orange paper; white card; crow and mouse shapes; black sugar paper and crêpe paper; wheat; fabric scraps; fake fur; small flowerpots; Plasticine; lollipop sticks; red tissue paper; glue; green fabric; hessian; sequins; paint and painting equipment; felt-tipped pens; table.

What you do

- Share the book together.
- Cover the display area with gold paper. Add green border and wheat along the bottom.
- Cut out a large cardboard scarecrow and invite the children to collage it with fabric scraps, paint the face and hair and add facial features. Staple the scarecrow across a corner to give a free-standing effect.
- Ask the children to paint individual scarecrows. Cut them out, mount on black and orange paper and staple to the display.
- Let the children collage fake fur on to mouse shapes.
- Invite the children to collage black crêpe feathers on to crow shapes. Add yellow beaks and sequin eyes. When dry, cut a horizontal slit across the middle and concentrate black paper as wings to thread through the slit. Staple the crows and mice to the display.
- Cut out circles from black sugar paper and glue red tissue-paper petals at the edge on the reverse to make poppies.
- Place a table in front of the display and cover with green fabric and hessian.



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Using the display

Personal social and emotional development

- Discuss the seasons of the year and the different clothes that we wear to keep us warm, cool and dry.
- Tattybogle was lost as he was blown away by the wind. Ask the children if they have ever lost anything. Did they find it? How did they feel when they lost something then found it again?

Communication, language and literacy

- Invite the children to trace a picture of a scarecrow and make up a name for it.
- Make a group poster of directions to find Tattybogle.

Mathematical development

- Create a scarecrow from 2-D and 3-D shapes.
- Use the display as an opportunity for counting.

Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Talk about the changing seasons and weather at different times of the year.
- Use the scarecrow to encourage the children to become familiar with different parts of the body. Look at similarities and differences.

Creative development

- Learn songs and poems about scarecrows.
- Try out different painting skills to create a wheatfield on black sugar paper.

Physical development

- Develop a scarecrow dance through the year.
- Invite the children to play 'What's the Time, Mr Wolf?' with Mr Scarecrow and little crows.

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