



HANUKKAH HOLD YOUR OWN CELEBRATION

Personal, social and emotional development

Early Learning Goal

Have a developing respect for their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people.

Group Size

Whole group.

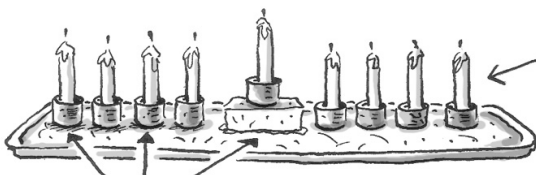
HAPPY HANUKKAH!

What you need

Hanukiah (real or home-made); nine Hanukkah candles or household candles with Blu-Tack on the base; matches (adult use); nine aluminium foil tubes covered in foil; one sheet of yellow A4 paper; scissors; eight sheets of white A4 paper; black felt-tipped pen; the song 'The eight nights of Hanukkah' on page 22; latkes (home-made) or eight small edible items representing 'Hanukkah gelt' for each child, such as chocolate buttons; low stool or box.

Preparation

Cut out nine 'flames' from the yellow paper and stick them on the top of the foil tubes, to make giant candles. Bend each flame downwards, so that the candle appears unlit. On each sheet of white paper, write a Hanukkah fact (see illustration of the display board on page 16). Before the celebration, give each sheet to eight children so that they can practise reading the words.



Aerosol lids, playbrick and tray all covered in silver foil.

Nine household candles for lighting, secured inside lids with Blu-Tack

Support and Extension

Read the fact sheets yourself with younger children. After the fifth fact, help the shamash to light all the candles. Let individual older children show and talk about any model Hanukiot or driedels they have made.

What to do

- Ask eight children to stand in a row, each holding a giant candle and their fact sheet.
- Ask a ninth child to be the shamash and to stand on a low stool or box in the centre of the row, holding a giant candle, but not a fact sheet (see illustration below).



- Ask each child, in turn, moving in a right-to-left direction, to read out their fact sheet.
- As the fourth child speaks, ask the shamash child to raise their candle in the air.
- When the fifth child has spoken, let the shamash light each candle, moving in a left-to-right direction, with you lifting each flame upwards to make the candle appear lit.
- Light the Hanukiah and sing 'The eight nights of Hanukkah'.
- Encourage the children to wish each other 'Chag sameach' ('Happy festival').
- Serve the latkes or give everyone the edible Hanukkah gelt.

Further Ideas

- Tell the Hanukkah story, accompanied by simple shadow puppets. Shine a light source behind a white screen and press and move card shapes up against the screen as you tell the story.
- Sit everyone in pairs, facing each other. One child, the 'Hanukiah', holds up eight fingers. Their partner, the shamash, touches the first child's fingers in turn (left to right) while everyone recites: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight! Hanukkah's here – let's celebrate! Chag sameach!