

Land ahoy!

Enhancing your continuous provision

Creative area

- 1 Display photographs and paintings of seascapes to inspire the children's independent artwork. Provide different art materials each week for the children to experiment with.
- 2 Play a recording of a sea shanty for the children to listen to and provide a variety of musical instruments for them to play along to the song. Introduce a different sea shanty every week.
- 3 Provide costume items, fabric and craft materials for the children to make their own pirate costumes. Place a 'Wanted' sign on the wall for the children to stand under and have their photo taken.

Mathematics area

- 1 Design a treasure map and decorate a Bee-Bot as a pirate. Can the children programme the pirate to find the treasure?
- 2 Leave bags of treasure for the children to find. Provide weighing scales, clipboards, pens and paper for the children to use to answer the question 'Which is the heaviest treasure bag?'
- 3 Sort the treasure. Leave a treasure chest filled with coins, jewellery and interesting objects for the children to sort, count and share. Leave paper and pens nearby for the children to record their findings as charts or graphs.

Writing area

- 1 Set up an old-fashioned writing corner labelled 'Captain Cook's cabin'. Leave a diary and a variety of pens on the table for the children to write what they have seen on their explorations.
- 2 Write sea-themed words on stones and put them in sand trays for the children to arrange to make their own sea poems. Provide a variety of words starting with the same letter to encourage the children to explore alliteration. Encourage the children take photos of their stone poems to record their work.
- 3 Set up a simple drawing app on tablets or computers or provide drawing materials for the children to create their own treasure maps.

Reading area

- 1 Provide sea-related books and recording equipment in the reading corner for the children to make their own audio books.
- 2 Create a research area with information books, maps, tablets, computers and posters of Australia and New Zealand. Display the question 'What would Captain Cooke discover if he visited Australia and New Zealand today?'

Role play area

- 1 Provide a Tuff Tub with a blue liner, sand, natural materials and small world figures for the children to build their own islands.
- 2 Provide costumes, large building blocks, cardboard boxes, fabrics and mark making materials. Display the sign 'Can you build a pirate ship?' Leave the materials out for the children to change and develop their design.
- 3 Provide shawls, bonnets, jackets, lanterns and cardboard boxes for the children to re-enact Grace Darling's famous rescue.

Malleable area

- 1 Provide tablets and child-friendly photo editing software. Let the children take piratey pictures of each other and edit the images ready for a rogues gallery of wanted pirates.
- 2 Treasure chest. Provide colourful modelling clay for the children to create a treasure chest and the treasures inside.
- 3 Display images of flags and provide Binca squares, plastic sewing needles and tapestry threads for the children to create their own, hand-stitched pirate flag.

Construction and small world area

- 1 Provide construction kits for the children to design their own model boats.
- 2 Place colourful building blocks and battery-operated tealights in a dark corner of the classroom and display the sign, 'Can you build a lighthouse?'
- 3 Place sand, stones, shells, small world figures and lifeboats in a Tuff Tub. Add water to the Tuff Tub and display the sign, 'Oh no, someone's in trouble! Can you help them?'

Outdoor area

- 1 Set up a treasure hunt in the outdoor space. Encourage the children to find clues that lead to a treasure chest.
- 2 Place a sign saying 'Lifeboat station' near existing climbing equipment. Provide wellies, waterproof jackets, hats, life jackets, rubber rings and binoculars for role play.
- 3 Provide large pieces of fabric, mark making and joining materials for the children to make and display their own pirate flags outside.

Investigation area

- 1 Provide a range of clothes, travel items, a picture of Australia and a sign saying 'What will you wear when you explore Australia? Can the children choose suitable clothes and items to pack for their expedition? Change the destination weekly.
- 2 Offer a range of sticks, straws, pipe cleaners, sticky tape and string for the children to make rafts and encourage them to test their models to see if they float.

Sand and water area

- 1 Display a variety of images and models of boats and provide plasticine for model making. Let the children experiment. Can they make a boat that floats?
- 2 Provide a variety of objects in the water tray for children to investigate floating and sinking. Display the question 'Why do you think some objects float and some sink?'