

Unit of work: 8/12	Topic title: Beginnings	Half term: Autumn B
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Outline	Details
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Learning Objectives ~

- To respond to significant experiences, showing a range of feelings where appropriate (ELG from Personal, Social and Emotional Development)
- To be able to reflect upon starting school and the changes that that has involved
- To be able to celebrate achievements of all kinds
- To listen to stories of new babies, birthdays, and how they are celebrated
- To celebrate Jesus' birthday and to reflect upon the meaning of his coming

Week 1: What's new?	Bring in a picture of yourself from primary school and let the children comment (gently!) on the changes in your appearance. Talk about the way that they have changed since they were born/ were toddlers/ were in playgroup/ since they started school. Share some of the changes in feelings and use drama to act out some opposites eg being hot/ cold, being fast/ slow, being rough/ gentle, and being scared/ confident. If you want to use a book, Grandma's Bill shows some lovely photographs of family members growing older.
Week 2: Helpers	Talk about different children's achievements, being careful to include a real range. Encourage children to identify help given, and to praise each other. Read Helpers by Shirley Hughes and talk about the different ways that we can help one another, and how helping does not always go to plan! Make a Helping Chart and ask children to nominate others for inclusion. Make a well-done badge for somebody else.
Week 3: New babies	<i>Prepare in advance to talk to a mum with a (relatively) new baby and interview her in front of the children. Focus particularly upon the way in which all families value and celebrate the birth of a baby, and concentrate upon the things we have in common in this area. Sit around in a circle and pass round a symbol of the baby ~ perhaps a flower or a shell, and let the children express their thoughts about the precious nature of a baby.</i>
Week 4: Birthdays	Use a series of pictures, or the members of one family to explore the changes that happen over time and the importance of marking those changes. Make it clear that different families do this in different ways, whether in a religious, cultural or traditional way. Choose one focus ~ the christening of a Christian child, the welcoming of a Muslim child, or the birthday of a Hindu child to illustrate this lesson. Use a child from the class, or a sibling, if appropriate.

<p>Week 5: The birth of Jesus</p>	<p>Talk about the birth of Jesus and make notes on the board about what the children already know. Read the story of the birth of Jesus from a children's bible and discuss the different characters in the story. Draw one of the characters in RE books and write a caption to show the feelings of the person/ draw a thought bubble. Use a little cardboard/ felt/ wooden or strong plastic (Early Learning Centre had a wonderful one) Christmas scene for the children to retell the story to each other.</p>
<p>Week 6: Why was Jesus born?</p>	<p>Sit around in a circle with a lighted candle and the Christmas scene in the middle. Remind the children of the Christmas story and let them have time to respond to it in their own way. Read Laura's star by Klaus Baumgart and give each of the children a little silver star to add to the picture in their RE books.</p>
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>Note down the children's responses to the task of making a well-done badge for somebody else ~ can they give reasons for their opinions?</p>

Nabil is a new-born baby.
The first words he hears
are the call to prayer.

Book focus ~ Helpers by Shirley Hughes, Picture Lions ISBN 0-00-661463-9
 Laura's Star by Klaus Baumgart, Little Tiger Press 1-85430-696-0
 Grandma's Bill, pub Macdonald ISBN 0-750-02627-8

