

Year: R

Term: Autumn 2

Intended learning outcomes:

Children will be able to:

- Step 1** share their own experience of birthdays
- Step 2** listen to others talk about how *birth* is celebrated
- Step 3** begin to identify what a *celebration* is
- Step 4** begin to recognise how Christians celebrate Jesus' *birth*
- Step 5** reflect on their idea about the importance of *celebrating birth*.

Foundation Stage

Assessment opportunities:

Evidence can be gathered when children:

- 1 talk about their own birth pictures
- 2 talk and listen to each other
- 3 draw/identify things needed to *celebrate* the *birth* of a baby
- 4 talk about ways of *celebrating* Christmas
- 5 respond to questions about the importance of *celebrating birth*.

Theme/Unit: *Christmas – celebrating the birth of a baby – Jesus' birth*

Key concept: *Celebrating birth*

Sequence of activities:

Step 1 – Communicate

- Talk about children's own experiences – ask about when they were born. Explore their own ideas. They can ask parents about it and bring in items, eg: cards, presents and photographs.
- Read *When the teddy bears came*, by Martin Waddell.
- Display of cards, toys, photos of children when born, etc.

Step 2 – Apply

- Discuss: *How does it feel to have a new baby? Does anyone have a new baby brother or sister? What happens to welcome and celebrate new babies? Do we always want to welcome and celebrate new babies? Does the baby like being welcomed and celebrated do you think? Ask the children what it would be like if they didn't celebrate the birth of a new baby?*

Step 3 – Enquire

- Look after a baby doll in the classroom – make baby cards to celebrate the new arrival.
- Read *Welcoming babies*, by Margy Burns Knight. *If a new baby were to visit us what questions could we ask to find out about how their birth was celebrated?* Teacher scribes questions.
- Visit from a new baby. *How was the birth of this baby celebrated?* Cards, gifts, flowers, visitors, etc. *Why do they do these things? How does it make the time special?*
- Children draw the things needed to celebrate the birth of a baby.
- In the home corner, role play celebrating a new baby in the home.

Step 4 – Contextualise

- Show picture or poster of Nativity scene/baby Jesus. *Who is this baby?* Notice similarities and differences to today. *What does this picture show?* Mother's love, presents, visitors, etc.
- Link to own ideas of babies being welcomed today.
- Tell cultural story using a Christian persona doll: *"This is the story that is told in churches at Christmas by Christians. This birth is celebrated at this time by (name of persona doll), our Christian friend."*
- Show the BBC film clip about the first Christmas: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zntfgk7>
- Read *The story of Christmas*, by Jane Ray. Invite children's responses. *Why special? Why celebrated by Christians?* Role play the story – talk about feelings of Mary, shepherds, etc. *What is special?* Simple recording/class picture/sequencing/art work. Imaginative play area becomes the stable.
- Make Christmas cards. *What is it to celebrate? How else do Christians celebrate the birth of baby Jesus?* Cards, sharing food, presents, decorations. Make a display showing ways that Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Step 5 – Evaluate

- Discuss: *Why do you think Christians still celebrate Jesus' birth? Why do you celebrate your birth? How do cards help Christians to remember Jesus' birth? Would it matter if you forgot and did not celebrate your birth? Why? Would it matter if Christians forgot to celebrate Jesus' birth? Why?*

Resources:

- *The story of Christmas*, by Jane Ray (1994) (ISBN: 978-1852139179).
- Pictures of nativity, card, etc, to make cards.
- *Welcoming babies*, by Margy Burns Knight (1997) (ISBN: 978-0606228183).
- *Happy birth day!*, by Robie Harris (1998) (ISBN: 978-0744552645).
- *When the teddy bears came*, by Martin Waddell (1996) (ISBN: 978-0744547634).
- Items that would be used at a baby's welcome, eg: flowers, baby cards.
- Baby doll, dressing-up clothes, house turned into a stable, baby clinic items.

REFS

Opportunities for promoting children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development:

Spiritual: providing an opportunity for enjoyment and fascination about their own lives and those of others. Giving opportunities to rejoice and celebrate things that are important to us.

Moral: reflecting on making decisions and when others may influence us. To see when a decision is the right one and when someone is influenced by the wrong things.

Social: sharing our own experiences and respond to the experiences of others. Working and socialising with others in a range of learning opportunities.

Cultural: willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic and cultural opportunities. Giving children an interest in and an opportunity to explore different faiths and beliefs.

Cross-curricular links:

Art

Using art and craft opportunities to develop the concept and to explore the concept of *celebrating a birth* through looking at Christian art.

Drama

Opportunities for role playing a *celebration* of a new baby at home and for role playing the nativity. Circle time and discussion opportunities for speaking and listening.

Literacy,

Opportunities to listen and respond to the story of Christmas and to consider the meaning of this. Talking about what is needed for a *celebration* and why the concept is important. Discussing why the concept is important.