

FOUNDATION

R

UNIT C

ADVENT – ‘FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT’

ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children mark the time of advent, giving each week a focussed preparation activity.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit takes the symbolism of the Advent Wreath to mark the four Sundays of Advent.

PRIOR LEARNING

In nursery the focus was upon getting ready. If the children have not attended nursery then use elements of NB.

SKILLS

Counting, revisiting.

VOCABULARY

Advent, waiting, preparation.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that there are four weeks in Advent.

Less able children will be able to recall some of the things they did to get ready during Advent.

More able children will be able to speak to God in their own prayer.

A.T.1 A.T.2

N/a N/a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C1 Take part in celebrations which express thanks and praise.

C3 Hear about the Church's celebration of Sunday as a special day.

C8 To use their own words for prayer.

- Recall Nursery work on Advent as a time of getting ready.
- Introduce the children to the Advent Wreath just before Advent begins.
- Children to talk about what they can see on the wreath. What are the features that they like?
- Talk about the four candles around the wreath as markers of the four Sundays leading to Christmas.
- Tell the children a special story about the lighting of the Advent Wreath in Church on the four Sundays. Build up the story to develop the children's sense of expectancy.
- Light the first candle on the first morning in school following first Sunday in Advent. Explain to the children that we are at the very beginning of the season. We have only just begun!
- Remind the children that each time we light the candles we think that we are preparing for a very special event, the birth of Jesus.
- Have a focus on number four.
- Practise grouping objects in 4s – threading beads in patterns of 4 – in Advent 4 can play in the sand.
- As the weeks of Advent progress change the focus for each week to emphasise that this is a special preparing time. Week one is tidy week, week two is quiet week, etc.
- Explore with the children some reasons why they might consider preparing for Christmas to be important.
- Create a display of their reasons for preparing for the birth of Jesus.
- Help the children to create some different "preparing prayers" which could be shared in a liturgy. You might make these in the shape of candles or the Advent Wreath.
- Learn a range of Advent hymns and songs about being a season of preparation.
- Reflect at the end of each week within a liturgy how well they have achieved their different preparations.
- The final week of Advent will overlap with Christmas theme.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C1 That celebrations express thanksgiving, joy, unity and love; of the major feasts and seasons of the liturgical year.

- Know that celebrations are important and will be able to take part in celebrations that prepare us for this special time

C3 That Sunday is a special day of celebration for the Church.

- Advent is a special waiting/preparing time for the birthday of Jesus
- There are four special Sundays in Advent leading to the celebration of the birth of Jesus and that the four candles on the Advent wreath represent the four Sundays.

C8 Of how to pray together; that they can speak to God in formal prayer and in their own words.

- Know that Advent is a special season of prayer for Christians.
- Be able to join in and write some Advent prayers.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Maths links very appropriate.

Make sure that the children are aware of the Advent display in the classroom. Encourage the use of the display and the focus for quiet times of prayer.

Leave some books and pictures in the prayer area about preparations for the birth of Jesus for children to choose when they are free.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

OTHER LINKS

- Personal and social skills.
- Observation of the natural world.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Reflection and saying sorry.
- Lighting of the Advent Wreath at Prayer times.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?