

Peter Pan for the Foundation Stage

nursery & pre-school, ages 3-5

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Group Discussions

- **Family** is one of the main themes of the story, based on some of the author, JM Barrie's own life experiences. The story presents a range of interesting family set-ups and scenarios (The Darling Family, Wendy as 'mother' to the Lost Boys, Nana the Darling's dog as a family member, and the concept of adoption). Use these ideas with your group, to encourage your children to discuss what it means to be part of a family.
- **Motherhood** is at the heart of Peter Pan. Wendy has to act as a 'mother figure' to the Lost Boys and to Peter Pan, as well as bringing up her own siblings when she is still a teenager! She tells them stories, like her own mother has told her. Though she admits she has no experience of playing a mother role, she imitates her own mother's behaviour and manages to win the boys over. In your classroom/group, discuss your mother, and what behaviours and actions you think make a good mother. What do your children think are the ideal behaviours of a mother – who is the perfect mother figure?
- **Peter Pan** is a mischievous young boy, who gets into a lot of fights! Use this opportunity to discuss the rights and wrongs of fighting. Also – are grown-ups always right/good?

Communication, Language and Literacy

Telling the story

Your children will need to be familiar with the story to do this classroom/group activity. Split into smaller groups and re-tell the story of Peter Pan. You may like to act it out using props or costumes – or why not create puppets to tell the story?

Letter Writing

As teacher or group leader, write a series of letters to your children, as if they are from a character in the story – Peter Pan, Tinker Bell or Hook, for example. Encourage the children to write replies to their chosen character.

Maths

- Using tracing paper, get your children to trace out maps of Neverland.
- Captain Hook's treasure hunt. Hide coins around the playground, classroom or meeting place, and let your children hunt for them. Use chocolate money (share it out and eat it at the end!). Count out the group's Booty at the end – Hook pockets whatever they don't find...
- For this activity, encourage your children to bring in any cereal packages, paper, cardboard, sequins, glitter etc, and in groups, build 'Wendy Houses'. As you do so, discuss the different shapes that are being created.
- Carry out a survey in your class/group, to find out which character is the favourite of your children. Make a graph or chart to display the results.
- Set timescale problems such as 'If Peter started to fly to Neverland at 1.45pm and it took him 45 minutes to get there, what time was it when he arrived?' He arrives at 12.25 – what time did he set off? NB: Build in a time difference between Neverland and England!

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Physical Education & Musical Movement

- Create a Neverland of your very own, in the playground, gym or meeting place (if possible, using PE apparatus). You could have a Wendy House, Mermaids' Lagoon or underground hide out. BUT! Be careful to creep quietly around the course or the pirates will hear you!
- Split into groups, and choose a different character from the story, then discuss the way you think your chosen character might move. For example, pirates might swagger, the fairies might fly, and a crocodile might slither. Enact your moves to music. Use different music for the different characters.
- Play your children music, and ask them to move in any way the music takes them. Can they match their moves to themes in the story – i.e. the piece could be magical or fantasy-like, like Neverland...how does this make you move?

Art & Creativity

- Ask your children to imagine what Neverland looks like, and to create a collaborative collage, using paint, glue, glitter, sequins, cardboard, silver foil - whatever you can find! You could create a giant collage/frieze, and put this up in your assembly hall/meeting place for all to see. NB: This is a great way of recycling old, torn up materials.
- Get your children to dress up as fairies and pirates, wearing fairy wings and eye patches that they have created themselves, using some of the products mentioned above. For fairy wings, you may like to use chicken wire, brightly coloured tissue paper and magical glitter. For eye patches, you will need some elastic, cardboard and black paint. Alternatively, some of your children might like to dress up as evil Captain Hook. Create a hook out of rolled newspaper wrapped with pipe cleaners and covered in silver foil/silver paint...aaarrrr, shiver me timbers!