

ADVENT – GETTING READY

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop an appreciation that preparations are necessary. It introduces the idea of preparation for Christmas.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

It introduces the Liturgical Year and a symbol to signify this time.

PRIOR LEARNING

This unit will build on their own experiences of getting ready for school.

SKILLS

Sequencing, fine motor skills, reflection, singing.

VOCABULARY

Advent Wreath, Jesus, Sign of the Cross, Prayer Corner, Son.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that they are getting ready for something important. They will recognise the Advent Wreath as a symbol of this time.

Less able children will be able to make some attempt to get themselves ready. They will know they are getting ready for Christmas.

More able children will be able to recall the word Advent and that we are waiting for Jesus' birthday.

A.T.1 A.T.2

N/a N/a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R4 Recognise and become familiar with the Sign of the Cross.

C3 To hear simple prayers and hymns.

L6 Recognise responses that are not loving and failures to show love and care.

- Discuss with the children getting ready for school. Use items of clothing – in which order do we put them on?
- Have everyday clothing items in dressing up box to put on correctly, opportunities to develop skills with buttons, zips, etc.
- What else do we need to do to get ready for the day ahead (e.g. breakfast, washing, etc.)?
- Discuss with the children relevant events (e.g. holiday, birthday, etc.). What sort of things do we need to do to prepare for these events? Have some items ready to help the children think about getting ready for special things (e.g. suitcases, etc.). Do we have to help to get ready for special times?

- Introduce the word “Advent” as the special name for the time when we are getting ready for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.
- When we make the Sign of the Cross, children hear that the son is Jesus.

- Add the Advent wreath to the Prayer Corner as a symbol of this special time of getting ready.
- Explore with the children some of the symbols of the Advent Wreath. Count the number of candles and explain as the weeks pass the special event we are getting ready for is getting closer.
- We need to get ourselves ready for Christmas by being good.
- Explore with the children some of the things they can do to get ready for Christmas.
- Children to hear and join in some prayers about getting ready for Jesus’ birthday.

- Reflect daily on things for which we need to say sorry. This could form the basis of Collective Worship at the end of each day during Advent.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

R4 The Sign of the Cross, names the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is a sign of love and blessing.

- Know that the Sign of the Cross is the special sign used by God's family.
- Advent is a special preparing time for the birthday of Jesus.
- Know that God's Family are preparing in Advent.
- Be able to identify the Advent wreath as a special symbol at this time of the year.

C3 To listen to and participate in simple prayers and hymns.

- Join in prayers and hymns focused on preparing for Jesus' birthday.

L6 Learn to say sorry, develop an understanding of right and wrong.

Literacy resource –
“How do I put it on?”

Personal & Social – buttons, zips, shoes on correct feet, etc.

Knowledge and Understanding of world.

Leaves have gone from trees – are there any trees with green like the wreath?

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?