

‘All about me’ box

Children can make an 'all about me' box individually or in groups, add to it as they have new experiences, and use it as a fun way to express creativity!

Learning aims

- Personal, social and emotional – communication and interaction with peers and adults, sharing experiences and individual interests, recalling emotions and feelings and developing attachments
- Language and communication – describing places and objects and using open-ended questions to develop language, words and emotions
- Knowledge of the world – knowing what objects are and what they are used for, and developing knowledge of people, places and animals
- Technology - using a camera
- Expressive art and design – using their own ideas and a wide range of materials to decorate their box.



Resources

- Paper for drawing
- Mark making medias such as crayons, chalks, felt tips, paint, pens and pencils
- Materials to cut and stick, such as wallpaper and magazines
- A box to collect objects and memories - ask the children/parents to bring a shoe box or similar from home
- Child scissors, left and right handed
- A photograph of the child's key person
- Child-height storage shelves for the boxes – children need to be able to easily reach their own box when they want to reflect or add to it
- Disposable cameras - this allows children to take them home and take their own photographs of special people, pets, toys etc. This can also give practitioners the opportunity to develop secondary focus activities on technology - such as photographs, developing images, the history of cameras - which could be used to make an interest table, display or themed box. If you have a 'take home' teddy or similar that the children take turns in taking home, this could be a good opportunity to take the camera home and visually record experiences.

Activity Outline

- Making an 'all about me' box is an activity that can be done with new groups of children individually or in a small group (for example, key person groups). There will be times in the year when children move up from the younger age groups into pre-school or when new children register at the setting. Ensuring each child has the opportunity to put a personal box together when entering the group will be a really useful tool.
- Encourage the child or parent to bring a suitable box from home - this encourages the parent to take an interest and helps the child to develop a real interest in their 'all about me' box
- Allow the child to use a range of mark making or cutting and sticking to decorate their box in their own expressive way, for example with a self-portrait or pictures of their family or house. A small group of children working together will provide rich communication and language development opportunities
- Encourage cutting pictures from magazines or catalogues of their favourite toys, foods etc. This will encourage taking turns, sharing and language development
- Offer children the opportunity to take photographs of the people, animals, objects, buildings and experiences in their life – this can be at the setting or in their home
- Fill the box with pictures and items and add to it whenever the child experiences something new or has a new member of the family.

Working with babies

Consider children of all ages having a 'family book' photo album or an 'all about me book' – this can be introduced to parents as part of registration and is a wonderful way of aiding attachments, offering pleasant reminders of home as a comfort and encouraging parent communication. Display the books in a basket at floor level.