

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Recalling past experiences

Learning aims

- Remember and talk about significant events in their own experience using memory recall
- Use rich language to describe special times or events
- Begin to be able to ask questions
- Take turns and listen attentively to stories that reflect the diversity of children's experiences
- Recognise that they have similarities and differences that connect them to, and distinguish them from, others
- Ask questions and be curious about other children's home lives.



Resources

- Photographs of children showing a special event or memorable experience in the child's life
- A scrap book (with enough pages for a double page for each child)
- Glue
- Pencils and pens.

Activity outline

1. Ask parents/carers to send in a photograph from a special event or memorable experience which is familiar to their child, with a short description of what happened. Reduce barriers to families contributing by enabling parents to email or message the photo and information or simply tell you about a familiar experience
2. Explain to parents that children will be using the photographs as prompts to recall the experience so they can share this with others
3. Once all of the memories have been gathered, look over them to ensure you have a brief overview of each one
4. Work with children in small groups to share their experiences. Explain to children that when it is their turn they will speak while everyone else listens and when they have finished telling their story, other children can ask questions

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5. Choose a photograph and lay it on the floor in front of the children. Encourage the child whose photograph it is to share the experience by asking excitedly, *"Sadie, can you tell us what was happening in this picture?"*
6. Give the child time to recall their memory and tell their story and gently remind other children to listen if needed. If children are finding it difficult to recall some of the information try asking an open ended question or prompt them with a snippet of information provided by the parent/carer. For example, *"Your mum said some of your family were there too, can you remember who was there?"*
7. Once the child has shared their experience invite the other children to ask any questions and encourage their curiosity and conversation. You may need to model some appropriate questions or rephrase children's comments into questions
8. Invite each child to share their experience until everyone has had a turn
9. Lay all of the photographs down and encourage the children to notice any similarities or differences between their experiences. If there are, you could explore this further
10. Allow children to stick their memories into the scrapbook, giving them a double page spread each. Children can use the pencils and pens to add to their memory – this could be mark making, drawing or writing. Children can allow their peers to add to their story as they recall what they were told about the occasion
11. Make the memory book available to children in the setting so they can revisit it and use it to recall their own memories, recall each other memories and ask other children about their memories.

Extension ideas

- Use a range of strategies to preserve memories of special events or experiences from the setting, e.g. making a book, collecting photographs, sound or video recording, drawing and writing
- Invite families in to the setting to share experiences. Families may have experiences of living in other countries and be able to bring in photographs and objects from their home cultures.

Extending the activity

- Publication – [Supporting birth to 2 year olds](#)
- Publication – [Supporting 3-5 year olds in the EYFS](#)
- Training – [Quality Teaching in the Early Years](#)