

# I can sing a rainbow

Raise the children's awareness of colours with this striking poster featuring the popular song, 'I can sing a rainbow'

## Activities across the curriculum

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Listen to 'I Can Sing a Rainbow' at [www.britishcouncil.org/kids-songs-rainbow.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-songs-rainbow.htm). Encourage the children to sing the song together and point to the words on the poster.
- Look at the poster together. Sing the song and talk about the traditional myth of finding a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. Read the story *At the End of the Rainbow* by A H Benjamin and John Bendall-Brunello (Little Tiger Press). Discuss what the animals discover. What would the children like to find at the end of a rainbow?

### Communication, Language and Literacy

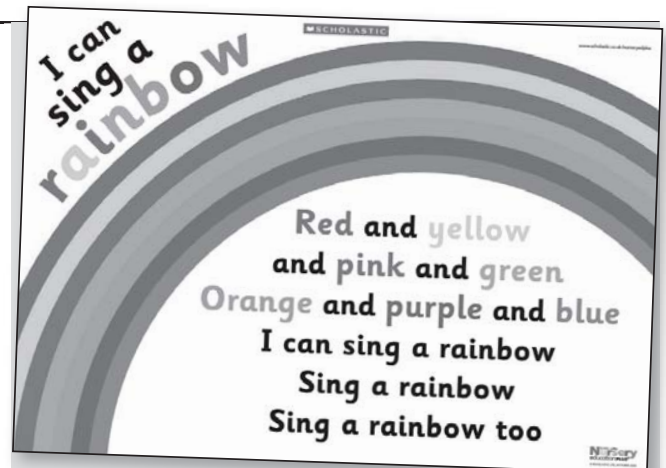
- Look at the poster together. Does the image tell us what the poster is about? Ask the children why they think some of the words are coloured. They can probably tell which word says 'yellow' by the colour, but how else can they tell? Encourage the children to focus on the initial sounds of the colour words. Ask them to help find the song title on the poster and then read it together. Invite the children to look for long and short words and repeated words.
- Invite the children, in turn, to choose a colour from the poster and make up a short sentence about their personal experience of this colour, for example, 'The pink in the rainbow is the same as my hair bobble'.

### Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Identify the colours on the poster with the children. Ask questions such as 'Which colour is on the outside of the arch?', 'Which colour comes next?', 'Which colour is after that?' and 'Which colour is the last one in the arch?'.
- Discuss the shape of the rainbow on the poster and introduce the words 'bow' and 'arch'. Have the children seen this shape on bridges and arches? Encourage them to draw arches in the air with their finger and build arches and bridges with a selection of bricks and blocks.

### Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Look at the rainbow on the poster and invite the children to talk about their experiences of seeing rainbows. Simply explain how rainbows are formed by the sun shining on raindrops. On a sunny day, make a mini rainbow with a hosepipe or use glass prisms to reflect the sun and create rainbows on the wall or on a piece of paper. Draw the children's attention to the colours on these rainbows and make comparisons with those on the poster.
- Identify the colours on the poster with the children. Encourage them to experiment creating these from the primary colours – red, yellow and blue – using powder paint and water.



## How to use the poster

Make up a collage rainbow on the wall by putting together a series of seven coloured paper arches and attach the poster in the space below. Provide a wide selection of appropriately-coloured materials for the children to stick on to each arch, for example, buttons, foil sweet wrappers, Cellophane, fabric scraps, and crêpe and tissue paper. Hang coloured balloons around it as a border and suspend old CDs in front to form rainbow reflections.

Arrange an exploration table of coloured items alongside the display, and include investigation resources such as prisms and kaleidoscopes.

### Physical Development

- Cover the ends of torches with tissue paper in the colours to match the rainbow on the poster. Encourage the children to form lighted arches in the air as they wave the appropriate colour while they sing the song.
- Create a huge rainbow on the floor using long strips of coloured ribbon or wool to define each section. Invite the children to find objects in matching colours to put in the different sections of the rainbow.

### Creative Development

- Sing the song and then make up an alternative version, for example, 'I can paint a rainbow'. Provide the children with watery primary colours and invite them to paint wide arches in red, yellow and blue and watch as the colours merge to form a rainbow.
- Laminate the poster and hang it in the creative area. Refer to it while the children experiment with finger painting rainbows on a washable surface, using ready-mixed paste and powder paint in primary colours.

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