

Early Years Foundation Stage

Unit title: Celebrating Special Times

What happens at Sukkot?

Context

- Sukkot is a Jewish harvest festival
- Sukkot is celebrated in September/October after Jewish New Year
- Jews remember how the Hebrews, led by Moses, journeyed through the desert when they had no permanent homes, to freedom in the Promised Land
- Jews build a Sukkah, a small shelter, outside their homes to recall this time

Key underlying ideas/concepts

- **Harvest:** a time when Jews thank God for the harvest and for looking after their ancestors, the Hebrews
- **Sukkah** (plural: sukkot) three sided shelters with branches for a roof; a special place to remember a special time

Links to Early Learning Goals

- Knowledge and understanding of the world: exploration and investigation and culture and beliefs

Main elements of the unit

- **Harvest**

Suggestions for practical activities

Look at seeds

- fruit and vegetables. Explore with the children the concept of growth and harvest
- Grow something from seed: eg cress, sunflowers, beans

- **Build a sukkah**

Use Story Sack

Build a class sukkah

- use 2 screens for side walls
- bamboo canes across the roof
- netting with silver stars attached over the canes
- branches from trees/bushes across the netting

- **Decorate the sukkah**

Decorate the inside of the sukkah with fruits/vegetables in net bags, Jewish New Year cards

- Discuss with the children what it would be like to have your sukkah built outside eg. see the stars at night, feel the rain
- Share some fruit sitting in the sukkah
- Tell the story about the journey of the Hebrews crossing the desert, led by Moses

Key questions to ask

- What do we remember at harvest time?
- How do we build a sukkah?
- What do Jews do in a sukkah?

Story sack

- Fruit/vegetables
- Pictures of fruit and vegetables growing
- Silver stars
- Story book: about sukkot