

Week 6

SETTING THE TABLE

You have now made most of the preparations for your party but you still have to organise the table. Setting the table for the party provides a number of opportunities for exploring different concepts with your child. She will be involved in *counting*, in *matching one-to-one* (one plate for each guest etc) and in looking at *shapes and patterns*.

ACTIVITY - SETTING THE TABLE

Let your child set up a toys' party. A cardboard box will be fine for a table. Let your child decide what to use for a tablecloth. (Talk about how it must be *bigger than the table* but not *too big*.) If you do not have anything suitable to use, stick two or more sheets of paper together to make a "cloth". Let your child decorate the cloth with drawings in felt tip pen, with a pattern using the rubber stamp set, or in any other way she may suggest.



Suggest that your child chooses four toys to 'invite' to the party. Discuss with your child what you need to set the table. Help her to find (or cut out of card) *one plate for each guest* and count the plates to make sure. Find *one cup or glass for each guest*; *one napkin for each guest*. Again let your child count each set as she collects them. Encourage your child to count each set again as it is put out on the table.

Talk about the food she has made from playdough and the biscuits or cakes she has iced. *Are there enough?* Help her to set out *one for each guest* and to decide if she has enough.

Set the birthday cake in the middle of the table. Put the candles on the cake. Pretend that it is her next birthday. How many candles are there - is that the right number - how many did she have last year?

PRESENTS

Now it is time for the guests to arrive. What will they bring with them? Talk about birthday presents. Why do we get presents? Do we know what the present is when it is given to us? How is it hidden from us? Talk about what is used to wrap presents. Look back at **Happy Birthday Old Bear**. Can your child find the picture with all the presents? What do they look like? Talk about the fact that they are wrapped in coloured paper and tied up with ribbons. The look at the pictures of birthday presents in **Kipper's Birthday**. How are they different? They are wrapped in patterned paper.

ACTIVITY - WRAPPING THE PRESENT

Use sheets of white paper - about A3 size - or thin coloured paper. Talk about what sort of a *pattern* you can see on wrapping paper. How does your child think it is made? Talk about the idea of '*printing*' a pattern.

Use a potato cut in half. Ask your child what sort of pattern she would like to make. If she has no strong ideas you could use a simple circle or square shape or anything else you think of. Draw the pattern on the potato and then cut away the potato so that the pattern is left raised.

Mix up some thick powder paint in whatever colour your child chooses and show her how to dip the cut end of the potato into the paint and press it onto the paper to make a pattern. This can be repeated in whatever way she chooses - rows of the pattern or a random covering. Keep your child's picture to send to your tutor at the end of term. Make sure it is dated and marked Week 6.

POSTBOX GAME

At some time during this week, get out the Post Box Game again and play Game 2. Again read the instructions first. If there are any other family members available then play with up to four people. Discuss what you are doing and whether your child enjoys this game.



AT THE PARTY

Talk about the noises at a party. Talk about the differences between 'happy' noises such as singing and 'sad' noises such as crying and shouting. Talk about *frightening* noises such as a balloon bursting.

Talk again about playing party games. Make up a parcel and let your child play "Pass the Parcel" with as many available people as possible.

Find some music to play *Musical Statues* as before. You can use this as the basis for a movement session.

PARTY SETS

Play Game 1 from the Nursery Term 1 Games section. Play the first game which is a simple *odd-one-out* activity.

FINISH THE TOPIC

Finish by reading together either **Kipper's Birthday** or **Happy Birthday Old Bear**. Let your child choose which one (or read both if time permits).

You are half way through the term now so start to think about what you will send to your tutor at the end of term. You need to include some samples from earlier in the term as well as those towards the end of term. Put aside one or two photos of activities with your own comments added plus your child's comments on what she was doing (her own words), plus the printing done this week and one further example of an art or craft project.

