

Create a memory box or memory album

To celebrate all of the 'wow' moments throughout a child's year, create individual memory boxes or albums with your children, for them to take home and look at again in years to come.

Learning aims

- Celebrating all the amazing things the children have been doing at nursery
- Developing children's listening and turn-taking skills as you talk in small groups and reflect on significant events and milestones
- Beginning to understand the concept of past, present and future when talking about events
- Being creative as children gather all the items for the boxes/albums and decorate them
- Working in partnership with parents to make the boxes/albums personal to each child.



Resources

- Memory box (this could be an old shoe or tissue box) or album (these could be homemade like a scrapbook)
- Material/paint/pens to decorate the boxes/albums
- Photographs
- Pieces of work e.g. mark-making, painting, stories children have made
- Memoirs/observations of 'wow' moments and memories.

Activity outline

- Talk to the children about the end of one year and another one beginning
- Where age/stage appropriate, ask them to share what they have most enjoyed at home/nursery
- Inform parents/carers about what you are doing and ask them to share any favourite photos/memoirs
- With the children, design and create the memory boxes/albums, provide a range of materials e.g. pens and paint so they can be individual to each child (remember to add a memory box label with the year on it)
- Fill the boxes/albums with photos, pieces of work, memoirs and observation/wow moments
- Consider adding a poem such as: "Goodbye, goodbye, a year is done, we worked, we played, we learnt, we laughed, we had some fun. Let's be happy, let's be safe, let's be kind and welcome a new year"
- Distribute them to families to look back on in years to come.

Extending the activity

- Create a nursery memory box/album including the children and staff members' favourite memories and photos of the past year. Keep it somewhere safe and enjoy looking back at it over the coming years
- Consider creating some memory boxes/albums including children's work/photos (with parental permission) to local nursing homes .

Special considerations

This activity can be adapted slightly for younger children. The main focus could be on exploring paint and other media, to design the box and enjoying looking at photos of themselves and their family.