



Dussehra Week Celebrations

Festivals bring jubilation to the spirit of celebrations in otherwise routine life of grown ups. The festivals are occasions to have fun and frolic, singing and dancing, relishing delicious gourmet food, meeting people and creating memories for life.

These are also occasions to rekindle the rituals, customs and traditions.

As educators we can create multiple learning opportunities while having these celebrations.

Through this specific learning week it is our endeavor to bring the festivities and the learning experiences together.

The module is spread over five days, one celebratory activity per day for kindergarten learners-age 3-6 years approximately.

These activities can be done at the beginning of the day or before dispersal.

The experiences are divided into five segments covering:

what is this festival-origin,

why is it celebrated-reason,



who celebrates it-different communities

and how is it celebrated-music, food and decorations.

Day 1

Origin of Dussehra



Materials Required	Description	Activity
<p>PreN- Flowers, betel leaves, and mango tree leaves.</p> <p>Nursery- Silk piece of cloth, bullion thread/ golden thread, beads, sequins, glitter, stars and glue.</p>	<p>Dasara, also called Dussehra or Vijayadashmi is one of the most distinguished festivals in India. Celebrations range from worshipping Durga, lighting up temples and major forts such as at Mysore and the traditional Dussehra procession locally known as Jamboo Savari (parade of elephants) which attracts many tourists on this occasion.</p> <p>The teacher begins with the relevance of the festival for different states and communities.</p> <p>The eastern and southern states celebrate Dussehra or Vijayadashmi as the victory of Goddess Durga over the evil demon Mahishasura. It begins on the first day of Navratri and continues for nine days. The nine days of battle became what we celebrate today as Navaratri, and the tenth day- the day of victory – is Vijaya Dashami.</p>	<p>PreN Making Goddess Durga with natural loose parts. Collect betel leaves, flowers, buds, and separate petals from some flowers. On a clean floor or cardboard, arrange one big betel leaf as the face of durga, small mango tree leaves as ears and complete the decoration using flowers and petals.</p>  <p>Nursery Decorating Jamboo the elephant. Draw an elephant on white sheet, trace the border using a marker and embellish using decorative items and name your elephant.</p> 

Day 1

Origin of Dussehra





Materials Required	Description	Activity
<p>KG- Printed illustration of nine durga faces avatar or 9 circle shape paper cutouts colour papers, colour pencils, marker, thread and material to colour/paint</p>	<p>On the other hand, most northern and western states of India celebrate Dussehra as Lord Rama's victory over Ravana on the day of Dashami. Ravana is also called by the name Dashamuka (ten faces).</p> <p>She shares with children the meaning of the word Dussehra and Navratri, Jamboo savari (elephant ride), the festival which symbolises the victory of good over evil.</p> <div data-bbox="548 938 1272 1372" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p>KG Navadurga Wall hangings(Group activity) Divide children into nine groups. Provide them with circle shaped paper cutouts and other materials. Draw and colour the face of Durga, make flowers using colour paper and paste around the circle. Once the decoration is completed, name and label nine Durga avatars.</p> <div data-bbox="1384 858 2018 1442" data-label="Image"> </div>

Day 2

Relevance of Ayudha Puja or Saraswati Puja



Materials Required	Description	Activity
<p>PreN-Props and puppets of Pandavas, weapons and Shami tree depiction for story enactment</p> 	<p>The three stories of relevance are enacted by teacher/s for different learning levels.</p> <p>PreN Story: Significance of Ayudha Puja or Saraswati Puja during Vijayadashami from Mahabharatha. <i>Pandavas hide their weapons on the branch of shami tree from Mahabharatha.</i></p> 	<p>PreN What does the word Pandav mean? Is it related to a number? Can you guess the connection of this name with a number? Why did Pandavas keep their weapons on branches of Shami tree?(Banni, vanni, kherji), how does the Shami tree and its leaves look? Can you name any other plants or trees of sacred value? The teacher can show some banni leaves and pictures of different trees of sacred importance.</p> <p>Also converse around importance of weapons/tools. Can you guess which tools they were using as their weapons such as bow and arrow? How important are tools to acquire any skill? Do you think every work needs some tools, such as doing some carpentry or plumbing work? Can you name some tools used by people around you?</p>

Day 2

Relevance of Ayudha Puja or Saraswati Puja





Materials Required	Description	Activity
<p>Nursery Picture sequence cards of the story of Mahishasura Mardini</p> 	<p>Nursery Story of Goddess Durga defeating Mahishasura</p> 	<p>Nursery Why did the goddess take nine days to defeat the evil Mahishasura? What gave the Durga strength to fight against such a powerful demon? What would you have done if you were in her place, given up or kept on fighting? Why?</p> <p>Invite them to volunteer and tell the story using picture sequence cards.</p>

Day 2

Relevance of Ayudha Puja or Saraswati Puja




Materials Required	Description	Activity
<p>KG Story enactment with props and costumes.</p> 	<p>KG Story of Ram Setu From Ramayan- A bridge built by monkeys and a little squirrel who helped Lord Rama.</p> 	<p>KG How did monkeys build such a long bridge over the sea? Which materials did they use to build the bridge? Can you guess how those big stones were broken, carried and arranged to build a bridge? If you want to cross the sea, how would you cross? Which mode of transportation can help you cross the sea- ship, plane or submarine?</p> <p>What do you think of the tiny squirrel who helped Rama during building the bridge? If the squirrel was bothered by her size do you think she would have contributed to help Lord Rama?</p> <p>After story enactment and conversation around the plot, construct small groups of children and invite them to enact the story by themselves.</p>

Day 3

Gombe Habba(Dolls Festival)



Materials Required	Description	Activity
<p>PreN Clay and poster or acrylic colours</p>	<p>The significance and stories of dolls and their arrangement is an integral part of Navaratri celebration known as Gombe Habba and it is called in different names in different regions such as Kolu or Golu or Bommala Kolu.</p> <p>PreN Making dolls using clay. There is a belief that dolls arranged during the festival represent the army of the Devi that fights against the evil with her. This ritual also symbolises inviting the Divine Goddess to one's home. Most toys used in this festival are from the city Channapatna in Karnataka which is also famous as '<i>TOYS CITY</i>'.</p>	<p>PreN Making clay doll Roll the clay and make different shapes from the clay such as round, oblong, coil and assemble these to make dolls. Keep it to dry. Colour and decorate the details later.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

Day 3

Gombe Habba(Dolls Festival)




Materials Required	Description	Activity
<p>Nursery Cardboard boxes, dolls, toys, decorative materials.</p>	<p>Nursery Dolls are arranged in a certain hierarchy followed by odd number tiered steps(7,9,11) The dolls of Gods and Goddesses are placed on the top most tiers. Usually Goddess Chamundeshwari is the centre of attraction. The next tiers house dolls of Demigods, Kings, Queens, Saints. The bottom tiers showcase everyday life, festivals, celebrations etc. The most important dolls are the “pattada gombe”. This is a pair depicting husband and wife/ King and Queen. This pair of wooden dolls is decorated and handed over to the daughter of the family during her wedding as a symbolic gesture for her to continue this tradition.</p>	<p>Nursery (Group activity) Display pedestal construction and doll arrangement. Arrange boxes at different levels like tiered steps. Cover using cloth. Divide dolls and toys according to size, colour, weight and character. Start arranging heavy dolls at lower steps, taller dolls at the sides, colourful and more attractive in middle steps, lighter dolls at the top steps. Once done, ask children to count the tiered steps, number of dolls/toys used and name those dolls/toys and tell what they represent.</p> <div data-bbox="1541 1010 1924 1461" data-label="Image"> </div>

Day 3

Gombe Habba(Dolls Festival)




Materials Required	Description	Activity
<p>KG Mat, cardboard box, toys, dolls, floor, loose parts like flowers, leaves and other natural materials.</p>	<p>KG Many people arrange dolls based on mythological themes like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Krishna Leela and many more. Some people follow simple arrangements and set dolls as per their convenience.</p>	<p>KG (Small group activity) Recreating scenes using doll arrangement Give different themes to the group from the stories. Lay a mat, arrange the dolls, toys to retell the story. Decorate the scene using leaves, flowers and other natural materials. Once done, ask the group to explain the scene. It might be a theme you suggested or they chose by themselves.</p> 

Day 4

Traditional Sports

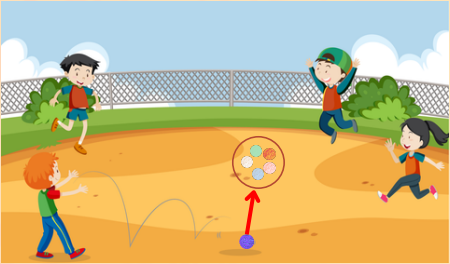
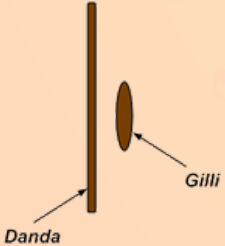



Materials Required	Description	Activity
<p>PreN Doll, track</p>	<p>Dussehra is also called Nada Habba (State festival) in the state of Karnataka. Many sports and events are conducted in Mysore during Dussehra including athletics, basketball, badminton, football and many more.</p> <p>Teacher will name some traditional sports names and ask if they know about these games and how they play? like Chowkabara,(game of chance and strategy) Goli(throwing balls into holes) and Kunta Bille(hopscotch), Tug of war, sack race, tiger sheep, three legged race, archery/bow and arrow, goli, chinni dandu(gilli danda), and Top(Buguri).</p> <p>Teachers conducts games for different levels</p> <p>PreN- Jamboo savari Nursery- Marbles KG- Chinni dandu/Gulli-Danda</p>	<p>PreN Jamboo Savari</p> <p>Draw a track, help children choose a partner as this is a game for pairs. Ask one child to bend down following the cow pose and the other child to put a doll on the child's back and hold.</p> <p>The child who is on his/her all fours moves slowly like an elephant on track. The other child makes sure that the doll does not fall and moves along with the elephant. Once done, ask children to exchange the role and repeat the exercise.</p> <p>This activity can be done with four pairs of children at one time.</p> 

Day 4


Traditional Sports

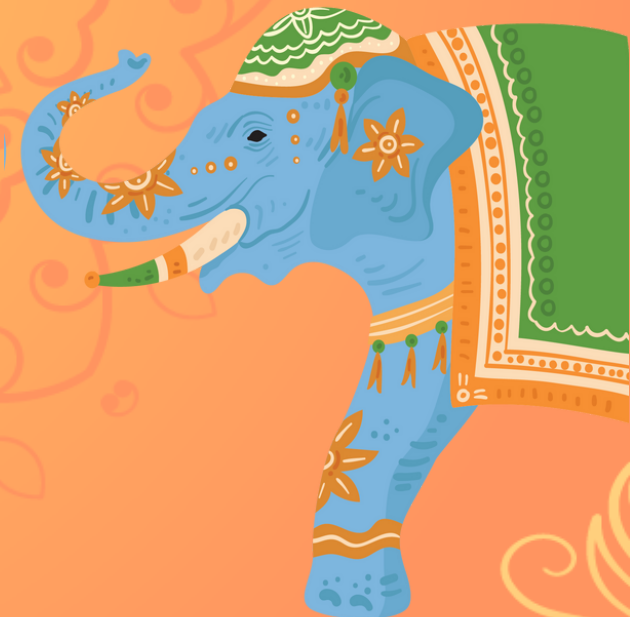


Materials Required	Description	Activity
<p>Nursery small marbles, one big marble</p>	<p>Nursery Goli/kanchey</p> 	<p>Nursery Goli/kanchey</p> <p>Draw a circle on the floor and place some small marbles inside the circle.</p> <p>From a short distance roll the big marble towards the circle and watch. If it rolls inside the circle the participant quits the game. If the marble stops outside the circle, mark the place, from this point hit the small marbles using a big one to strike and win the small marble/s.</p> <p>The participant keeps striking the small marbles and earning till the time he/she strikes successfully.</p> <p>One child gets one chance to participate.</p>
<p>KG Two sticks- short and long</p> 	<p>KG Chinni Dandu/Gulli Danda</p> 	<p>KG Chinni Dandu/Gulli Danda</p> <p>Take two wooden sticks- the longer one is the danda and the shorter one around 3 inches length is gilli.</p> <p>Draw a big circle, place the gilli tilted in the middle of the circle on a stone. Now invite a child to strike the gilli with the danda. Once the gilli spins in the air the striker hits it with force aiming it outward.</p> <p>One child gets two chances.</p> <p>The striker who makes the gilli land the farthest is the champion.</p>

Day 5

Making Kosambari

Materials Required	Description	Activity
Pre soaked chana dal, diced carrots and cucumber, lemon juice, grated coconut, salt and coriander leaves.	<p>Kosumbari is a traditional salad prepared specially during the occasion of festivals. It is nutritious and loaded with protein.</p> <p>On day 5 this is a common activity for all learning levels. Children can prepare this salad individually or in pairs.</p>	<p>Process of making the salad</p> <p>Soak chana dal for around 3-4 hours. Drain water from the chana dal. Mix all ingredients and give a good stir. Finally add coriander leaves and serve.</p> 





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