



SETTING UP A FOCAL AREA

Remember that your focal area needs to be changed regularly if it is to remain relevant. Ideally you should change it as soon as you start a new topic. (This does not mean that you always have to change it completely.)

You may want to involve the children in the design and content.

You may want to develop the area gradually as the topic develops.

A few pictures single or double mounted can be very effective.

Alter the height of the items on display to create a more attractive display.

Encourage children to make use of the display throughout the day.

Keep a supply of taped music nearby to use for reflection / prayer.

Make use of the computer for labels / captions etc.

A few well chosen questions / activities as part of the display can turn your area into a learning opportunity for the children.

Leave room for items children bring in from home.

Make time to introduce the focal area to the children each time you change it.

WHAT YOU MAY NEED

Material / coloured backing paper (this could signify the liturgical year)

Artefacts / pictures / statues / photographs (remember to include non Anglo-Saxon images and art from other cultures and times)

Candles (different sizes / shapes /scented)

Relevant books/ book stands

Some examples of children's work as the topic progresses

Clear and relevant labelling

Plants / flowers

A Bible which is appropriate for the age of the children in your class

A class prayer book / a book for intentions

Card for captions/ questions