

New Year, New Beginning

KS1 Circle Time Ideas

- Discuss what New Year is and how it is celebrated. Talk about counting down to midnight and the excitement that builds during the last few seconds. Count down with the children from 10 to 0. Talk about how they feel the closer you get to zero.
- Talk about all the exciting things that will happen over the next year, e.g. birthdays. Ask the children to sit in a circle. Call out different months of the year. If it is the month of their birthday, the children get up and run around the circle until they find a new place to sit.
- Say the months of the year in the correct order. Talk about how long a year is. Which seasons are in a year? Ask children to talk about a month or season that is special to them.
- Make a calendar for the New Year, looking at the different seasons and the changes that happen throughout the year.
- Look at the ways that people celebrate New Year. Discuss how some countries have carnivals and parades to celebrate New Year. Think about ideas for having your own parade in the playground using colourful ribbons, flags and whistles. What else would the children include?
- As a class, make a list of everything the children have enjoyed in the past year. These could be school-related or achievements and activities outside of school. Now write a list with everything the children are looking forward to in the coming months.
- Discuss how bells are rung at midnight to symbolise the New Year. Give the children a selection of bells and ask them to test which ones would be best to let people know that the New Year has arrived.
- Talk about what a 'resolution' is and why people make them at New Year. Discuss ideas for what might make a good resolution. Something that is easy to keep? A challenge? Ask the children to think of a New Year's resolution for themselves.