

The Wonder of New Life

PDMU STRANDS:

Personal Understanding and Health

Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider Community

Preparation for Baby Visit

Invite a parent who has recently given birth to visit the classroom (in accordance with school policy). Prepare for the visit in advance by chatting with the children about babies using questions such as:

- Does anyone have a new baby at home? How old is the baby? Could you tell us about what preparations you made for the baby before it was born?
- Talk about what needs to be prepared or bought – a cradle, baby clothes, bottles, soother, blankets, a baby monitor, pram, etc.
- Refer to the baby growing inside its mother.
- Talk about how babies need to be cared for when they are born – how we have to be very gentle, they are very delicate, need lots of sleep, sometimes feed from their mothers or from a bottle, need to be washed, etc.

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- Prepare for the visit of the baby to the classroom – where the mum and baby will sit, how quiet we will have to be because babies don't like loud noises, what questions they might ask, etc.

Baby Visit

Provide a comfortable chair for the mother and baby in a central position where everyone can see the baby. Tell the children that if the baby gets upset the mum may need to go outside for a minute but that she will come back.

Questions such as these might be asked (in accordance with school policy):

- What age is the baby? What size and weight was the baby when he or she was born?
- What is the baby's name? Is there a special reason why this name was chosen?
- What kind of food do you give the baby? (If mum is breast-feeding, she might like to explain about that and that it is very good for the baby.)
- How do you know that the baby is hungry?
- Why do babies need to be 'winded'?
- When do babies need their nappies changed? Does the baby like having their nappy changed?
- How can other members of the family help with the baby?
- Has baby changed much since they were born?

The children will have lots of their own questions which may seem irrelevant but it is good for them to marvel in their own way at the gift of new life.

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'Show and Tell'

Invite the children to bring in photos of themselves as a baby and to ask their parents what they were like as babies – Did they cry a lot? Were they very hungry? At what age did they walk? At what age did they talk? Where did they sleep?

- Children can take turns showing the photos to the class and telling them a few details about what they were like as babies.

Art Activity

Invite the children to draw a picture of a baby and to include things we do to care for babies – maybe a blanket, a pram for walks, a family who love the baby, a bottle or soother, etc.

Song:

At Home We Have A New Baby

Prayer

Thank you, God, for babies.

They bring so much love and joy to families.

We were all babies once.

Jesus was a baby too. We celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus at Christmas.

Help us to show love in our families like the Holy Family did when Jesus was growing up in Nazareth.

Thank you, God, for every member of my family.

Amen.