

Encourage the children to invent superheroes based on people with everyday occupations by drawing attention to the extraordinary powers of the familiar characters depicted in the poster

### Using the poster

- Hang the poster in the story corner and encourage the children to invent stories about the characters portrayed.
- Display the poster on a parents' noticeboard, along with the other poster in this issue, and surround

them with examples of the children's superhero drawings and paintings with appropriate captions. Draw parents' attention to the display and encourage them to discuss their own views or concerns about superhero play.



## Activities across the curriculum

### Personal, social and emotional development

- Look at the poster together and discuss how the superheroes are helping other people. Invite the children to play a guessing game, taking turns to mime the actions of one of the characters while the others guess who it is.
- Explore the image of the firefighter rescuing the child from a burning building. What unusual power has helped her in her rescue attempt? How do real firefighters rescue people from the top of burning buildings? Extend the discussion to emphasise the dangers of fire. How might the fire have started? What simple rules can the children remember to avoid burning themselves?

### Communication, language and literacy

- Use the poster to discuss how super powers have helped people with everyday occupations to do their jobs more efficiently. Can the children think of other jobs that would benefit from super powers, for example, a park keeper who could attract litter into a bin by waving a supersized hand.
- Look at the special clothing worn by the superheroes and search for letters on them. What do the children think that the letters 'FF', 'P' and 'Z' signify? Make hatbands for imaginary superheroes and write initial letter sounds on them, for example, 'SL' for 'super litterpicker'.

### Mathematical development

- Look at the picture of the superhero zookeeper picking up the elephant.

Could the children do this? Why not?

Look at a selection of small and large model zoo animals and guess which is the heaviest and which is the lightest. Let the children check with a balance. Introduce a small-world zookeeper character and encourage imaginary play involving using super powers to lift animals of differing weights.

- Look at the picture of the postman delivering letters. What would be the benefit of having really long arms? Encourage the children to create postmen and women using stretchy dough and stretch their arms to different lengths. Encourage mathematical vocabulary such as 'long', 'short', 'longest', 'shorter' and 'same'.

### Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Look at the picture of the carpenter with a hammer as a substitute hand. What would be the advantages of this power? Ask the children to examine their fingers and thumbs and discuss how they use them. What would be the disadvantages of having a hammer instead? Extend the activity to explore a range of tools and decide which would make the best substitute hand.
- Look at the picture of the postman with long arms and talk about they help him to deliver the post. Find pictures in a catalogue showing devices for people with physical disabilities, for example, to help them pick up things from the floor or open a screwtop jar. Invite the children to design a device to help someone with limited mobility, such as a cane with a feather duster tied to the top for dusting a high shelf.

### Physical development

- Look at the picture of the superhero zookeeper, then introduce zookeeper role play using soft toys, recyclable boxes and a selection of brushes. Create pens for the toy animals with the boxes and suggest that the children play at being superheroes, balancing a soft toy in one hand while attempting to clean the floor of the pen with a brush.
- Discuss how the postman reaches letterboxes with his long arms and suggest transforming glove puppets into superheroes, for example, using cardboard tubes to lengthen their arms.

### Creative development

- Look at the poster together and suggest that the children create superhero dolls, for example, a chef with a plastic spoon hand. Provide the children with a selection of fabric, plastic tools and utensils, recyclable tubes and boxes, tape and string and encourage them to try out their own ideas.
- After exploring the poster, read stories about superheroes or visit [www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories) and enjoy the adventures of Tommy Zoom to stimulate creative work. Try to find stories featuring female superheroes, such as *Super Sue* by Cressida Cowell (Walker Books, HB, £7.99) – see the 'Superhero' themed book review section on page 47 of this issue.

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