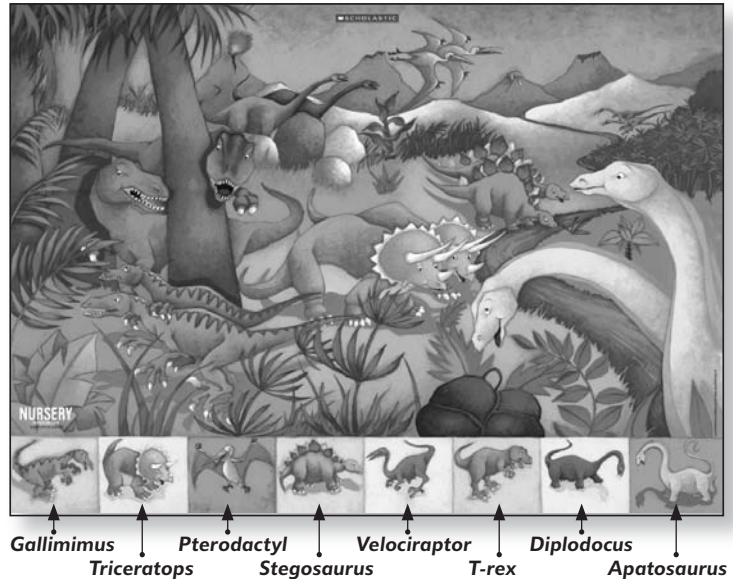


Encourage the children to enter the imaginary world of the dinosaur with this attractive dinosaur poster

### Using the poster

● Create an interactive 'Dinosaur world' display. Cut out the small pictures at the bottom of the poster and hang the remainder of the poster in the centre of a low board backed in green paper. Surround it with the children's dinosaur drawings and paintings and create a border of large, overlapping leaves, made from shiny, green paper and draped around the edges. Place the small pictures and model dinosaurs in separate containers in front of the display, and encourage the children to explore the resources freely.

● Display the poster in different play areas, for example, mark-making, mathematics and creative areas to stimulate the children's ideas.



## Activities across the curriculum

### Personal, social and emotional development

- Explore the poster together and encourage the children to talk about what they like or dislike about it. Do they have a favourite dinosaur? Can they say why it is their favourite?
- Cut out the small pictures at the bottom of the poster and laminate them individually to make picture cards. Spread the remaining poster on the floor and invite the children to sit around it. Place the cards, upside down, around the edge of the poster. Encourage the children to take turns to choose a card to turn over and then try to match it with a pair of dinosaurs on the poster.

### Communication, language and literacy

- Create a 'dinosaur corner' with comfortable cushions and a small table. Arrange a selection of fiction and non-fiction books about dinosaurs on the table and hang the poster alongside. Leave dinosaur puppets and toys on the cushions so that the children can 'read' to them. Join the children in their play to read books on demand and take part in discussions.
- Explore the poster together. Point to one of the dinosaurs and explain that you would like each child to think of some words to describe it. Start by giving examples yourself, such as 'fierce eyes', 'sharp claws' or 'bony back'.

Modify the complexity of vocabulary according to the language levels of the children in the group.

### Mathematical development

- Ask the children to count how many dinosaurs of each type they can see on the poster and introduce the word 'pair'. Add one more dinosaur to each pair using the pictures cut from the base of the poster and talk about 'adding one more to make three'.
- When all of the cards have been positioned, remove them one by one, talking about 'taking one away to leave a pair again'. How many pairs are there altogether? How many individual dinosaurs? Try pairing up model dinosaurs for a dinosaur version of 'Noah's Ark'.

### Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Encourage the children to try to identify and find out more about the dinosaurs featured on the poster by visiting relevant websites such as the Natural History Museum at [www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk)
- Match a selection of model dinosaurs to the ones on the poster. Are there any dinosaurs on the poster that are not represented in the selection? Look for similarities between the dinosaurs, such as the shape of some of the bodies, or distinguishing features, such as wings, bony plates and horns.

### Physical development

- Look at the landscape in the poster and identify the river, volcanoes, trees, rocks and plants. Create an undulating landscape for model dinosaurs to roam, using papier mâché to make hills and volcanoes, and foil for rivers and streams. Cut out holes in the surface of the landscape to place plant pots containing waxy leaved house plants. Alternatively, sink the pots in wet sand moulded into hills and volcanoes.
- Invite the children to make clay models of their favourite dinosaur, using the poster for reference.

### Creative development

- Look at the dinosaurs in the poster and invite the children to make up stories about them. Spread out a green blanket over small cushions to create a bumpy landscape and suggest that the children act out their stories with model dinosaurs. How will their dinosaurs sound? Will they talk in the same language as the children or will they roar, squeak, grunt or howl?
- Read some of the *Harry and the Dinosaurs* stories by Ian Whybrow (Puffin Books). Do any of Harry's dinosaurs look like the ones in the poster? As you read the stories, hold the picture cards from the base of the poster to compare the dinosaurs.

**Jean Evans** is an early years consultant and author.