

Children of all ages love to have their achievements celebrated. Triangular flags, known as 'bunting', are a great way of sharing success or praising effort. They look great too!



Personal, social and emotional development (PSED)

Beautiful bunting

Essential resources

- Paper, fabric, or plastic bags
- String
- Crayons/pens/paint/fabric paint
- Paintbrushes
- Glue
- Plastic drinking straws

Every country in the world has a flag, and the colours and designs on the flag are carefully chosen to tell everyone something about the country. Flags are also designed for special events and organisations; for example International Children's Day, or the Olympic Games. Bunting is often used in celebrations, and is usually smaller than flags, and triangular, (though any shape will do!).

Jane Sheppard, a childminder in Luton, regularly makes bunting with the children she cares for, who range from two to 11 years of age.

'Everyone likes to hear good things about themselves,' she says, 'and it is especially important to recognise children's achievements. The idea came to me to make a flag whenever a child told me about something they had achieved. Ethan, for example, had appeared in the school play, so we designed a flag for him, and then one for each of the other characters in the play.'

'We used bright fabric and fabric paints, and hung the "Ethan in his play" bunting around the kitchen. Then we found that children liked making the flags just for the sake of making them, so we have bunting everywhere!'

Strung bunting

Triangles are the most popular shapes for bunting. Draw the triangles for the younger children, with a rectangle of about a centimetre at the shortest side, to fold over. Draw or paint your design.

On the other side of the paper, paint the rectangular shape at the top of the triangle with white glue (PVA) or glue stick, then either fold directly over a length of string or roll the paper around a length of plastic drinking straw. The straw adds stability to the flag and then allows even the youngest children to thread the flags onto string.

You can make waterproof bunting by cutting up strong plastic bags or plastic fabric and oilcloth (sold for tablecloths).

EYFS links

Creating flags and bunting helps children to:

- Display high levels of involvement in activities (Dispositions and Attitudes (40-60+ months).
- Develop confidence in own abilities (Self-confidence and Self-esteem, 16-26 months).
- Feel pride in their own achievements (Self-confidence and Self-esteem, 22-36 months).
- Have a sense of personal identity (Self-confidence and Self-esteem, 30-50 months).
- Have a positive self-image and show they are comfortable with themselves (Sense of Community, 40-60+ months).

Cross-curricular

- **CLL:** Interact with others, negotiating plans and activities and taking turns in conversation (Language for Communication, ELG).
- **KUW:** Explore objects and materials with hands and mouth (Designing and Making, Birth-11 months).
- **KUW:** Construct with a purpose in mind, using a variety of resources (Designing and Making, 40-60+ months).
- **PD:** Use one-handed tools and equipment (Using Equipment and Materials, 30-50 months).
- **CD:** Capture experiences and responses with paint and other materials or words (Being Creative – Responding to Experiences, Expressing and Communicating Ideas, 30-50 months).

Tear out and file these pages so you can use them again and again

'We used bright fabric and fabric paints, and hung "Ethan in his play" bunting around the kitchen'



You can make fabulous fabric bunting using scraps of leftover fabric or cheap cotton sheeting – a small amount goes a long way if you cut it carefully.

For longer lasting bunting, use pinking shears to cut out your triangles, then either use the drinking straw method described above or sew a simple channel in the top of each flag.