

Early Years' Resources Lending Service

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Resources for Early Years' Settings



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Early Years' Resources Lending Service

Welcome to the Education Leeds Early Years' Lending Service, an initiative from the Gypsy Roma Traveller Achievement Service (GRTAS) funded by Leeds City Council Early Years' Department and Education Leeds. The aim of the service is to provide items that are culturally relevant to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children to help promote a sense of belonging.

For Children

Children learn best when they feel **safe, secure and supported** as well as **excited and motivated**.

GRT children need to see their culture reflected in their school environment. The resources in this catalogue help make this happen. Seeing themselves and things that are familiar to them will make them feel **happy and confident**.

For Parents

It is not only the children who will feel **more welcomed**. The Lending Service will also reassure parents that their child **belongs** and their culture is **recognised** in a **positive** way. Creating an environment where parents are happy to talk to staff, discussing concerns and sharing in their child's successes will support the child's learning journey and **break down any mistrust**.

Going Further...

For resources that cover other age groups see the National Association of Teachers of Travellers and other Professionals website: www.natt.org.uk/eshop.

Our own website www.grtleeds.co.uk is a rich source of information on our work and GRT Culture.

Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month (GRTHM) each June provides an opportunity to raise awareness in the classroom. You will find items in this catalogue useful for displays and discussion during the month. Find out more at www.grthm.co.uk or contact **GRTAS** for more information on how we work with schools during **GRTHM** using the address on the back cover.

Recommendation

This useful resource has been produced to support practitioners in providing all children with the best opportunities to develop a sense of community.

In particular, supporting children's understanding and respect of their own needs and the views, cultures and beliefs of other people. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children need to see their culture embedded and celebrated in the resources, activities and continuous provision of all settings.

The resources in this booklet reflect GRT lifestyle and culture. Appropriate use of the resources will support the four themes and associated principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage – Unique Child, Positive Relationships, Enabling Environments and Learning and Development.

"I recommend you explore and make use of the resources within this booklet in order to provide children with experiences and support which will help them to develop a positive sense of themselves and others whilst promoting positive outcomes for Gypsy Roma and Traveller children."

Liz Bradley Early Years Foundation Stage Improvement Manager, Early Years and Youth Service Leeds

Enabling Environments

"We need to create an inclusive learning environment for all children. All cultural backgrounds should be understood and respected. Children from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities should feel safe and cherished in school and therefore parents and pupils will be proud to identify themselves." Lord Adonis 2008

The underpinning of enabling learning is an environment that is flexible and varied enough to respond to individual needs. The people and the space in which children learn are crucial to an effective learning environment for children.

GRT children function within communities that have a rich and unique culture which has long been marginalised and excluded. It is crucial to the learning development of these children that service providers have learning environments that promote positive outcomes for GRT children.

An enabling environment which is inclusive of GRT cultures teaches ALL children about the world around them.

Community Cohesion

Many GRT families experience discrimination and prejudice; settings that reflect GRT culture challenge many of the myths that surround these communities and serve to promote community cohesion. At the same time parents of GRT children become confident to record their children's ethnicity correctly and begin a process of sharing and learning.

What do I do Next?

All the items in this catalogue are available for you to borrow and/or view at any time*. Contact us to arrange a time for us to visit, discuss and loan resources to you. *Subject to availability

- 1. Browse the catalogue**
- 2. Return the form on the back page**
- 3. View items and agree a loan period**
- 4. Enjoy for the duration of the loan!**

For convenience we've also stated where you can purchase the items in the catalogue if you want to add the resources permanently to your classroom setting. If you wish to buy items please DON'T contact us but see the details next to the resources. Unless otherwise stated the prices include postage and packing although this may vary depending on the quantity ordered.

"Settings that reflect GRT culture challenge many of the myths that surround these communities and serve to promote community cohesion."

"An enabling environment which is inclusive of GRT cultures teaches ALL children about the world around them."

*My thanks to Richmond Hill Primary School for their help and feedback on the resources and to Graham Alexander for his input in helping shape this catalogue.
Sue Gold Foundation Stage Teacher for GRTAS Leeds.*

Books

Come and Count With Us

By Nottinghamshire Traveller Education Service

A photographic touchy feely board book. The book can be used for cultural awareness, literacy hour, and practitioner training. It is available in two sizes and as an interactive whiteboard CD.

Available to buy. Contact Jenny Clark on 01636 680 380 tes.team@nottscc.gov.uk

Book A4 £8.99

Book A3 £19.99

Interactive Whiteboard CD £5.00



My Little Box of Books

By Durham Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service

Box of four books covering themes of "what I can do", "numbers", "shapes" and "colours". Books to share and books to use as part of Foundation Stage curriculum. A photocopiable activity pack for Foundation Stage children accompanies the "My Little Box of Books".

Available to buy. Contact Sue Green on 01740 656 998

sue.green@durham.gov.uk

Box £20.00

Activity Pack £25.00



Shaun's Wellies

By Norfolk Traveller Education Service

This is an interactive book with lift-up flaps. It is the story of a small boy living on a Traveller site and his hunt for his Wellington boots. The book is available in two sizes.

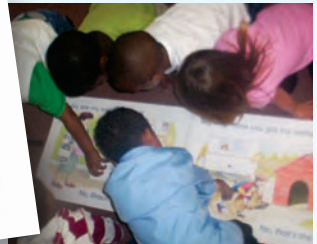
Available to buy.

Contact Judith Waldron on 01603 727 880

judith.waldron@norfolk.gov.uk

Book A4 £7.70

Book A2 £21.50



The A2 version of some books enable whole groups to play, read and interact together

Travellers A Talkabout Book

By George Lowe and Jo Bass

This is a picture book that depicts Travellers and Traveller culture that can be used to raise awareness and promote discussion.

The book is sturdy and spiral bound to withstand young hands.

Available to buy.

Contact Maggie Hartley on 01865 256620

maggie.hartley@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Book £7.10



Monday Morning

By MECSS Traveller Education Service

Follow three children from very different cultures as they get ready for their first day at a new school.

Available for Loan only.



**"Items that are culturally relevant to
GRT children promote a sense of belonging"**

Learning Packs

Open Roads Open Minds

By GRTAS Leeds

A pack including a DVD of GRT Storytellers in performance, a poster, storyteller and artist portraits. The texts and illustrations of the stories are on the DVD for use on a 'white board'. It can be used to promote diversity and enrich the curriculum for all children. It will help in the process of 'inculcating race equality and offers children an insight into the Travellers' world. It can help to develop an active attitude to reading inspired through powerful dramatic storytelling'.

Available to buy. Contact Peter Saunders on 0113 274 8050
peter.saunders@educationleeds.co.uk

Pack.....£50.00



Where's my Teddy?

By Margaret Hockey

A set of resources based around a story set in and around a trailer.

An activity book has supporting resources including activity sheets, dot to dot puzzles, pattern making, craft activities and games. They can be used to support distance learning packs and differentiation in classroom tasks.

The Mouse Skills CD features 10 interactive games for the computer to develop skills such as clicking and dragging.

Available to buy. Contact Sue Green on 01740 656 998
sue.green@durham.gov.uk

Book£5.50

Activity Pack£20.00

Mouse Skills CD-ROM.....£10.00



Appleby and its Fair

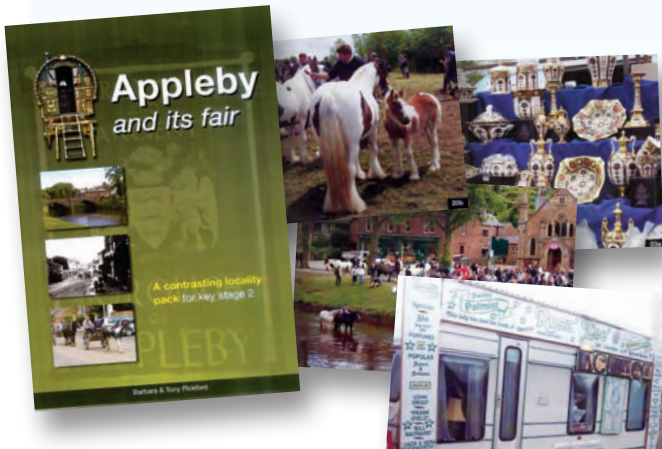
By Cheshire Consortium Traveller Education Service

A contrasting locality pack. This pack aims to raise awareness of the lifestyle of Gypsy and Traveller families and challenge stereotypes.

This resource can be used as curriculum material to help improve knowledge and celebrate the diversity of Travellers. The pack includes 40 A4 sheets of photographs and maps which are also included on a CD. A booklet contains background information, teacher's notes and photocopiable pages for use in activities.

Available to buy. Contact Jean Heaton on 01606 274 331
barbara.pickford@cheshire.gov.uk

Pack.....£35.00



Lollaboi

Storytelling

With Richard O'Neill

Richard is one of the UK's leading storytellers. He believes in the power of storytelling to educate, inform, build bridges and entertain. Storytelling helps with literacy and personal confidence.

Contact Richard O'Neill on 0791 810 3051
lollaboi@aol.com www.lollaboi.org.uk



Play Area

Hobby Caravan

By Three Bears Playthings

This magnificent play-house trailer reproduces the living accommodation of some of the Traveller community. It enables you to include Travellers' children in home play activities. The caravan is built from a sturdy framework kit that is very quick and easy to assemble. Also supplied with this item are beautiful hand-made cushions and a tea set to get the children's imaginations started on their adventures.

Available to buy. Three Bears Playthings

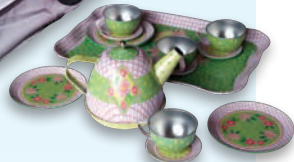
www.threebearsplaythings.co.uk

Caravan cover CP821 (ex VAT and P&P)£160.00

Framework CP81 (ex VAT and P&P)£178.00

Handmade cushions are available to buy.

Contact Colin on 07932 334811 or email colinitzinger@yahoo.co.uk



Pupils at Richmond Hill Primary School thoroughly enjoyed a "Travelling" lifestyle; even attaching a peddle car to "tow" the caravan. The caravan comes with some extras; beautiful hand-made cushions and a tea set.

Poster

GRT Poster

By GRTAS Leeds

An art poster from a painting by Ferdinand Koci that celebrates the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. The A2 poster promotes discussion and aids understanding and looks great on the wall! Encapsulated to give protection and durability.

Also available to buy.

Contact Peter Saunders on 0113 274 8050

peter.saunders@educationleeds.co.uk

Poster £5.00

Reference

Gypsies and Travellers in Their Own Words

By GRTAS Leeds

The book is packed with beautiful, rare photographs from the GRT communities and can be used to reflect cultural awareness and explore history.

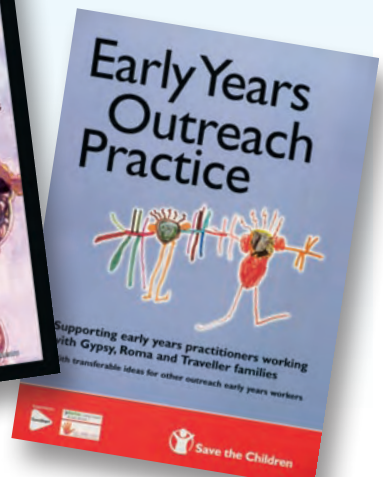
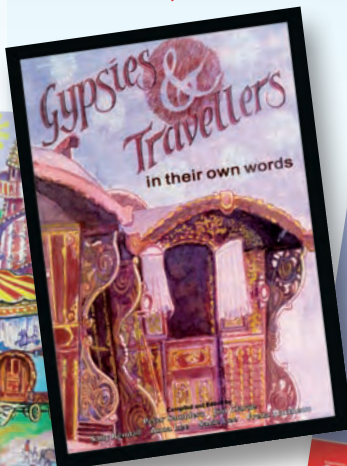
Available for loan only.

Early Years Outreach Practice

By Save the Children

A document aiming to support early year practitioners working with GRT children. Its purpose is to share and reflect the work, knowledge and ideas of practitioners nationally. The ideas are transferable to other outreach early years workers.

Available for loan only.



Toys, Puzzles & Artifacts

Fantasy Roaming Rose Caravan

From the Early Learning Centre

A pretty traditional Gypsy caravan with fold-up steps, opening roof, bunk beds and lots of detail inside. Simply pop the horse into its harness to head for pastures new.

Available from the Early Learning Centre www.elc.co.uk

Pack (not including P&P)..... £15.00



Wooden Toy Caravan Set

Fagus Set By Ptolemy Toys

This fantastic wooden toy set comprises a caravan (see cover), furniture for the caravan interior and a truck to take it places! These models are impressive in size. The truck is 25cm long and the caravan 41cm long and 15cm high. Also included are peg people for added play value. The roof of the van comes off and can be fixed to the front to provide an awning.

Available to buy from Ptolemy Toys

www.ptolemytoys.co.uk

Pack (not including P&P)..... £105.00



Handmade Roma Dečka

By Alicia Balazova

Beautiful, handmade lace doily or dečka (in Slovakian). An artifact that demonstrates traditional Roma craft skills.

Available for Loan only.



Jigsaw Packs

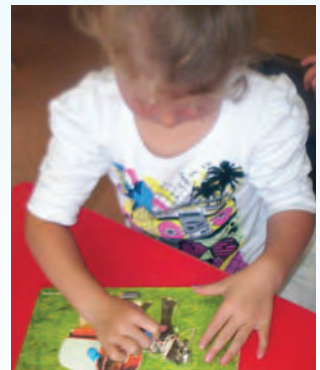
By Durham Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service

Two packs of puzzles for raising awareness. The first set of four puzzles shows inside and outside a traditional Vardo and modern trailer. Pack 2 consists of two inset trays with various images of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller lifestyle.

Available to buy. Contact Sue Green 01740 656 998 sue.green@durham.gov.uk

Pack 1 (four jigsaw puzzles)..... £20.00

Pack 2 (two jigsaw puzzles) £15.00



The children at Richmond Hill Primary School certainly enjoyed the sturdy colourful puzzles

"Children need to see their culture embedded and celebrated in the resources, activities and continuous provision of all settings"

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Leeds LS16 5BE

Contact Sue Gold
Telephone: 0113 274 8050
Fax: 0113 275 0445
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Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Resources for Early Years' Settings

Loan Application

Name: Role:

Establishment:

Address:

Postcode:

Email: Telephone:

Date/Time you would like to meet to view resources with GRTAS staff and/or organise date for loan:

Further Comments/Remarks

Complete, fax or post this form to Sue Gold at GRTAS Leeds

Terms of the lending service. Please be aware that compensation may be charged by us, for items lost or damaged or defaced whilst on loan to you beyond what would be considered normal wear in the opinion of the lender.

Equality and Entitlement



Gypsy Roma Traveller Achievement Service Leeds
www.grtleeds.co.uk



Education Leeds
www.educationleeds.co.uk