



Making kites

In *Nikhil and Jay Flying High*, the family make kites, then they take them outside to fly them. Read the story about kites with the children. What do Nikhil and Jay use to make their kites? Gather some kite making resources – sticks, paper and card, thread/string, tape. You could watch a short video together about how to make a kite and follow along. Use lots of vocabulary about instructions, length, shape, decorations.

What weather will make them fly really high? Could any type of weather break the kites? Take your kites outside to have a go at flying them – just like Nikhil and Jay!

What would you like to ask Chitra?

Chitra told Laura two stories from her life - when she went to see a poet, and when she emailed the author of her favourite book from childhood. The poet chatted with her, and the author still writes to her. She says they are people she will always remember. After you have read *Nikhil and Jay Flying High*, invite the children to think about what they would like to ask Chitra? Perhaps it is a question about Nikhil and Jay, or about where Chitra gets her ideas for stories, or what Chitra's favourite food or colour is, or her favourite word. In their talking partners give them time to discuss their questions. They could write them on strips of paper and tape up to make a quick display. Or perhaps they could even send their question to Chitra!

Activities for *Nikhil and Jay Flying High*

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Tidying up

Chitra tells Laura that her favourite page in *Nikhil and Jay Flying High* is in the story *Together is Fun*. Jay doesn't like tidying up, and he gives Nikhil some dates for doing his tidy up jobs for him. Ask the children how they feel about tidying up? Collect their words – e.g. boring, tiring, calming, annoying, sorted. Does everyone feel the same about it?

Read *Together is Fun* with the children. How does Jay feel when Nikhil is still tidying up and isn't there for Jay to do things with? How do Nikhil and Jay make tidying up fun? Make a plan with the children about how to make tidying up their classroom more fun – they could have tidy up buddies for different areas, special music, take before and after photos etc.

What do we eat at home?

Chitra says that it is the differences that make things interesting, and Laura says that food is a really good way to share about our cultures and similarities and differences. Watch *Nikhil and Jay and the Messiest Mango* on BBC iPlayer/CBEEBIES, or read the story version. Knowing your children, use this as a starting point to talk about what dishes they eat at home, or when they visit family or friends. Do they know what ingredients are in the dishes? Who prepares them? How do they eat them? When do they eat them? Provide lots of opportunities to use senses vocabulary – smell, taste, what things look like, how things feel. Invite them to draw pictures of the dishes they talk about, adding labels, or lists of ingredients. Provide tape for the children to make a display, or create a class book.

How we stay connected

Nikhil and Jay's grandparents, Thatha and Amamma, live in Chennai in India. Look for this on a globe or world map with the children. Nikhil and Jay chat with Thatha and Amamma using a tablet screen. Knowing your children, talk about important people in their lives and how they stay in touch with them. What do they call their important people? Do their important people live far away? Or close by? You could look at these places together on the map.

Discuss the different ways we can stay in touch with people who are important to us. Phone calls, video calls, emails, we can send videos and photos, we can write letters and send drawings. Do the children have a favourite way to stay connected? Why is it their favourite way?