



**Using pictures for looking, counting,
chatting and making**



About the cards

These pictures have been designed by a Scottish Traveller and her artist friend. They show little glimpses of Traveller life, past and present and can be used to start chatting with children about the Traveller community in Scotland.

STEP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Ideas and illustrations by Jo Waterhouse and Kelly Stewart
Design by Tom Holmes



For parents

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Finding a quiet spot

It is helpful to find a quiet corner to help your child concentrate on the pictures without being distracted. You could look at a different card each day. It is also good to do the activities at a regular time. This will help your child to understand routines.

Chatting about pictures

Go through each of the pictures in turn. Let your child have a good look first without needing to speak. This gives them time to really think about what they see. When you think they've had enough time looking you can ask some of the questions on the cards or try these ones:

What things can you see?

If you closed your eyes what sounds do you think you would hear?

What is happening in the picture?

For older children you could ask them to imagine giving a description of the picture for someone who can't see.

It's also good to ask for children's own opinions by asking which part of the picture they like best or whether they would change something if they were the artist.

Counting

Each page is based on a number from 1–10. If your child likes to count you could begin by asking 'how many' on each page. Many children love repetition so they may want to do this regularly. This can also be a starting point for counting things at home. So, if you are counting the 4 hooves on the horse you can ask your child if they can see and count 4 of anything else in the kitchen.

Links

The QR codes link to the STEP website where there are lots activities and ideas for other things you can do to help your children learn.

Find out more about play and learning





How many fires?



Looking & Seeing

What can you see?

Can you take your eyes for a walk around the picture. Start at one edge and move to the other. Think about all the people, things, shapes, patterns and colours you see.

Now turn the picture over and without looking describe everything you saw. You might want to time yourself.



Chatting & Wandering

It's night time. Is it easy to see everything in the picture? Why?

Do you think all the creatures can see?

Have you seen any of these creatures before, where?



Creating & Thinking

Can you make a place for one of the creatures to go to sleep. You might find things in your home or you could go outside and find bits and pieces such as grass, sticks and leaves. How will you make your creature feel safe? How will it know when to get up again?



How many famels?



Looking & Seeing

What do you think is happening in the picture?

Famels is another word for hands. What is the girl doing with her famels?



Chatting & Wandering

Lots of people use their famels to say something.
Try using your famels instead of words to say:

Stop!
Come here!
Bye bye!
Go over there!

What other things can you say
with your hands?



Creating & Thinking

Can you use your fingers and famels to have a conversation?

You can also make some finger puppets.

What will your fingers chat about? A new puppy?
What you bought in a shop? A big surprise?

Make up your own conversation and use your fingers and famels.

You could get someone to use a phone or tablet to film your conversation.

**"Famels are fantastic for
telling stories—mum is
always using her famels."**





How many tents?



Looking & Seeing

Take your eyes for a walk around the picture. Look for clues to tell you what time of day it is.

What is the lady doing?



Chatting & Wandering

Sometimes you can't see everything and you have to use your imagination. What do you think is happening in the tents? What do you think it is like in the forest? What sounds might you hear? What do the trees, bushes and plants feel like? Are they rough or smooth or jaggy?



Creating & Thinking

There are lots of different types of plants and bushes and trees. Can you find some outside of your home that feel rough and smooth?

Use some paper and crayons to make rubbings to see how many different surfaces you can find.

You could then cut out your rubbings to make tree shapes.

"Whit a fine crisp morning, think I will go for a swim in the river, then boil water for the porridge and tea."





How many hooves?



Looking & Seeing

What can you see? Can you describe the colours and the surfaces in all the different parts of the picture.



Chatting & Wandering

What is the weather like in the picture? How can you tell?

What is the horse's name? Where do you think this horse is running to? You can use your imagination.

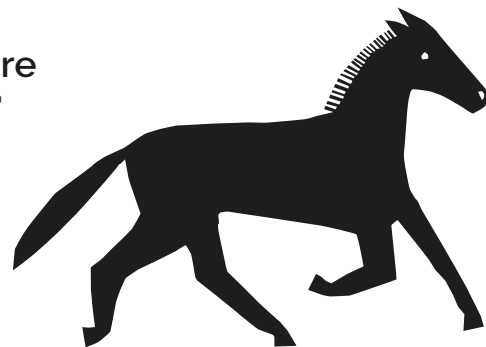


Creating & Thinking

Can you make a horse puppet? You can use a ready-made horse or make your own drawing on card. Stick it onto a lollipop stick so that you can move it easily.

Now make a background for the horse to show where it is running to. You can use crayons, pens or paints.

"Horses are our lives."





How many berries?



Looking & Seeing

What can you see in this picture? What kind of berries can you see?

How many different colours of green leaves can you see?



Creating & Thinking

Can you gather some berries or leaves? You might even have some berries in your fridge! Get a bowl and press them and mix them to make some berry-coloured liquid. Use a brush to make berry shapes on paper.



Chatting & Wandering

Where do you find berries?

What is the girl thinking?

Do you like berries?

How can you use berries?

Sometimes berries are not safe. How do you keep yourself safe?



"The sweet smell of the berries; strawberries, raspberries, rowan, cranberries, cowberries, blackberries, cloudberrries..."





How many pleats?



Looking & Seeing

What is happening in the picture?

Can you describe the girl's face? What do you think she is thinking?



Chatting & Wandering

Do you remember any special occasions when you have had your hair done or cut?

How did you feel? Did you wear special clothes too?

What are your favourite family parties? Weddings, birthdays, christenings? What makes them special?



Creating & Thinking

Try your hand at braiding. You can do it with a doll, puppet or a real person's hair.

You can also do braiding using three pieces of string or wool. Knot them together at one end.

You could also use art materials or an iPad to draw two pictures of yourself. One of you getting ready for a party and one of you having fun at a party.



"Let us see if those bonnie wee ringlets are ready?"



How many washing items?



Looking & Seeing

What can you see in the picture? Can you describe the sky? Do you think this is a good day for hanging out washing?



Chatting & Wandering

All the clothes are the same colour but they have different shapes. How many tops and how many trousers can you count on the line.



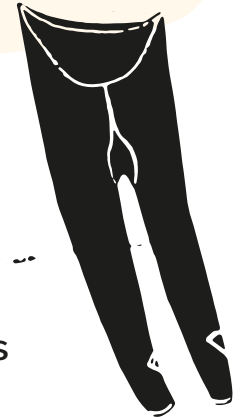
Creating & Thinking

Can you create pictures of your own clothes shapes? You can look at the video to find out how to make a stencil then create different patterns. Make a washing line using string or rope. Hang your washing on the line.

How many tops and how many trousers will you make?



"Och, quick everyone, grab the washing, there's a storm a brewing!"





How many musical notes?



Looking & Seeing

Who is in the picture? What age do you think they are? What is happening?



Chatting & Wandering

Is there a song that everyone in your family likes? Do you have a favourite song that you sing at special times, like at parties or on car journeys?



Creating & Thinking

Can you learn a Traveller song?

Can you change the words to the tune to make a new verse?



"Times o' joining herts 'n' heids an' famels as we stan', Granda asking 'far ye been, an' far ye gan?"





How many flowers?



Looking & Seeing

What can you see in the picture? What are the things lying on the red patterned rug?



Chatting & Wandering

Why do you think the girl and her older woman are making the flowers? Do you think Travellers make flowers as often nowadays?



Creating & Thinking

Make you own paper flowers using tissue paper, wire and tape.

Find out about traditional skills used to make things. Try out a new skill then teach a friend how to do it.



"Well done everyone, the fleurs are affy bonnie. All of your great grannies would be sare proud!"



How many chalets and homes?



Looking & Seeing

What can you see in the picture?



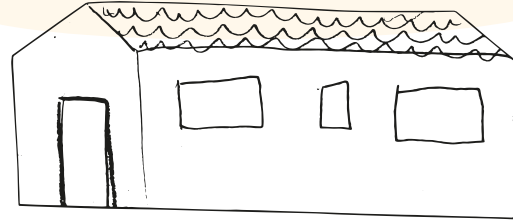
Chatting & Wandering

The black van looks as though it is coming back home. Who do you think is in it? Where might it have been?



Creating & Thinking

The thick black lines show the roads through the camp? Can you make a map showing your own route from your home to your friends' home or your aunty or granny's home. Draw the route and the things you pass along the way. You might pass a tree or a church or a farm that you can draw.



"Remember wee one, everywhere we go and wherever we are, is our home. It may appear that we have just arrived, but in truth, we have never left."

