‘LAMBING TIME’
HILL FARMING HERITAGE – ROLE PLAY FOR CHILDREN.

Objective: The purpose of this role play is to start a discussion about Hill Farming as a way of life and vocation. Some questions to consider:

- ***Is it still relevant today?*** Do the children know hill farmers or come from hill farming backgrounds themselves?
- ***What are the benefits / disadvantages of this way of life?*** Does it sound like hard work? Would they rather be Ted or Cousin Peter? Can they identify some things in the role play that sound difficult? Can they identify some things in the role play that sound fun / interesting?

How to use this role play: Print off one copy per character. Ask the children to read through their part and highlight their words as they go so they can get used to the story and what they have to say. Encourage the children to read the role play through once before acting it out. Children can refer to their script as they go.

<u>CHARACTERS:</u> The characters in the scene are:
Shepherd / Dad : RALPH
Shepherd's wife / Mum : MANDY
Shepherd's son: TED (school age)

<u>SETTING:</u> The setting is in a Farm kitchen. Mandy is doing some computer work. Ted is doing his homework
<u>PROPS:</u> Lamb / Bottle / Tub / Laptop / Cuppa / Stove (Can also be imaginary / mimed!)

Main message: Shepherding is hard work but rewarding. It is a way of life.

Character	Dialogue	Comment
RALPH (Shepherd)	[ENTERS HOLDING A LAMB] Ooooo! – It's blowing a gale out there! It's freezing – I can't feel my fingers! Poor little lambs being born into this weather. This little fella needs some help!	
MANDY (Shepherd's wife)	Come and sit down – I'll get you a cuppa.	
TED (Shepherds son)	What's wrong with the lamb Dad? I'll take him… [THE SON TAKES THE LAMB]	
RALPH (Shepherd)	The ewe had two lambs. The other is big and strong but this one is too weak to get milk from his mum.	

MANDY (Shepherd's wife)	Here – we'll pop him in front of the stove to warm up. Put him in this box Ted.	
TED (Shepherds son)	TED PUTS THE LAMB IN THE TUB There you go! He'll be right in no time! Can I give him a bottle Dad?	
RALPH (Shepherd)	Yes – He'll need that! I've got one made up ready. Here you go [RALPH PRODUCES BOTTLE FROM HIS POCKET]	
TED (Shepherds son)	[KNEELS DOWN AND STARTS FEEDING LAMB WITH BOTTLE]	
MANDY (Shepherd's wife)	Look what arrived today! A postcard from Aunty Shirley. She's in Malaga. Cousin Pete is having a great time swimming and eating ice cream she says!	

TED (Shepherds son)	Malaga? It's alright for some! When can we go on holiday?	
RALPH (Shepherd)	Not any time soon Son I'm afraid. There's too much to do. We've still got 200 sheep to lamb. You don't get much of a holiday when you farm! There's always something needs doing.	
MANDY (Shepherd's wife)	Not to mention all the paperwork! I seem to spend more time on the computer than I do out in the hills nowadays.	
TED (Shepherds son)	I know, I know….. Well at least you two don't get homework anymore!	
RALPH (Shepherd)	Well get your homework done tonight and I'll take you out on the quad before school first thing tomorrow. You can come on my morning checks with me and see how many lambs have been born overnight. You are always a great help – you always spot something I might have missed!	
TED (Shepherds son)	Yay! Thanks Dad! I love it first thing on the hills. I guess Cousin Peter doesn't get to do that on a school day? I wouldn't swap it for all the ice cream in Malaga!	