Carnival is traditionally a time of colourful celebration with spectacular masks and costumes seen in Venice and lively floats parading through the streets of Viareggio. Throughout Italy carnival is celebrated with children dressing up and people throwing brightly coloured confetti and streamers at each other. Using this as a starting point take into the classroom some pictures of the fancy masks made and worn in Venice. Explain that by wearing a mask people can change their identity and become someone else. Invite the children to tell you who they would like to be, rephrasing what they say in English. Write on the board a list of characters that the children suggested, for example Harry Potter, a pirate, a queen and so on.

Descriptions
Observing the masks the children have made compile a list of words they need to describe their characters. Elicit from the children describing words they already know such as happy, sad, big, small; then teach any new ones they need, e.g. strong, angry. After consolidating the new vocabulary write the words on the board and ask to choose one or two words which describe their character. Invite them to introduce themselves Hello, I’m a wicked wizard/I’m a strong robot and so on.

I look in the mirror
Take a mirror into the classroom and find out if the children know what it’s called in English. If not teach the new word. Ask them what they use a mirror for and then place the mirror at the front of the class and teach the following chant.

I look in the mirror. What do I see? I see(character) looking at me.

An action song
To consolidate the adjectives the children have learnt and transmit the feeling of carnival time teach the action song If you’re happy and you know it which can be found on SIM web site. To make the song more interesting sing some verses softly, others loudly or quickly and slowly.

Assessment
Ask the children to draw a picture of their chosen character and a speech bubble as in a cartoon strip where they must write for example, Hello, I’m a happy pirate.