



Lesson plan

Working together and helping others

This lesson aims to promote the ideas of helping others and working together, using fun activities and looking at volunteering with a charity as real examples of people giving their time to actively help the lives of others. The children in your class will see and understand the benefits of working in teams, improve the ability to communicate ideas and opinions and will also develop empathy towards people who need help.

Through discussion they will explore how they might feel when they need help and how we feel when someone helps us, reinforcing why helping others is so important to everyone involved.

Warm up activity

Ask the children in your class to think of the last time they helped someone or were helped by someone. The following questions might be useful:

- ☺ Why did you do it?
- ☺ How did you help the person or group?
- ☺ How did it make you feel afterwards?
- ☺ How do you think it made them feel?
- ☺ Why might you need help?
- ☺ When did you last need help?

Main input

This part of the lesson could be a good opportunity to introduce our charity before explaining the main activity. There is a helpful and concise introduction to Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) in the available PowerPoint resource, or you could use 'Understanding the connections' below to see how this lesson is linked to our charity.

Understanding the connections

Volunteering is all about working together and it involves giving your time for the benefit of others. At CHSW, volunteers give their time to help the charity and to give as much support as they can. They help the families, whilst being part of the CHSW team. Our charity could not raise the funds we need, or give the support and care needed by families, without the volunteers' work. Our volunteers help at events, in our shops or in the hospices themselves.

Activities

Reception / Key Stage 1

Carousel format: Children move around a series of activities which could include:

- ☺ Creating a picture of helping someone, or of someone being helped, with a caption
- ☺ Practising letter formation around keywords relevant to the topic
- ☺ A supervised and timed activity to build a tower in pairs or groups
- ☺ A small world play area

House building: Put children into suitable sized groups and give them the task of building the best house they can in 5 minutes. Alternative ideas could include sorting items. After the activity, encourage children to think about the following:

- ☺ How did working together help?
- ☺ How did you work together?
- ☺ Did all of you help each other?
- ☺ Did some of you work alone?

Picture and caption activity: Provide children with suitable keywords, including help/helped/helping, for example "I am helping", "I help to tidy". Demonstrate creating an image of when you helped someone, and show that you are including a simple caption to explain what is happening in the picture. Ask if they can think of a time when they've been helped, or have helped someone, to provide a starting point for their own picture.





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Small world play: Ask the children to create scenes of people being helped using small world play. Creating prompt cards with simple sentences or keywords may help with this. Put children into pairs and give them the task of creating a scene or situation where someone needs help. Have children explain what is happening in their play session.

Key Stage 2/Upper Key Stage 2

Pairs of groups could rotate through the following activities or they could be done as a whole class. By creating six groups you have the opportunity for one group to watch while the other does the activity and vice versa. This could allow for plenty of peer assessment and feedback opportunities.

Tower race: Instruct groups to build a tower of a certain height. One group then competes 'against' an individual from a different group who will try to make a tower on their own. Children could predict who they think will win and why. This fun activity should generate lots of interesting conversation to link well with the main input of helping others and working together as opposed to 'going it alone'.

Guess the scene: Have groups generate lots of ideas for simple captions to go onto scene cards with the common theme of 'helping someone in need'. For example: "When someone falls over, help them get back up". One group then silently acts out these scenes after practising them; can the other group guess what the silent scene is showing? These could be shared with the whole class as a fun plenary.

Volunteer advertisement: Encourage children to script and act out an advertisement for 'Volunteers needed' which could be used on social media channels. There are lots of examples online to support this activity. Get the groups to think about important information to include and how they will both 'hook' their audience in and promote volunteering effectively in a short 30 second advertisement. This activity could be developed to include the rules of script writing or to require the groups to evaluate their success.

Plenary

Reception / Key Stage 1

Children can talk through their pictures or small world scenes and explain what they are showing to the class.

Key Stage 2/Upper Key Stage 2

Groups can show and act out their volunteer advertisement scripts for peer assessment.

All classes could end with a discussion asking:

- 😊 Why is it important to help people?
- 😊 Why is it good to help people?
- 😊 Why is it good to give your time to others?

A further discussion point could be to ask:

- 😊 How does working together fit with the work a charity like CHSW does?

Thank you

Thank you for using this lesson resource. Every download helps to raise awareness of CHSW and the work we do.

