

Session 6

Belonging Together

Key learning

Children reflect on the beauty in the world, exploring how we flourish when we recognise our interconnectedness and the unique value we each have.



Before the session

You will need:

- Slides for this session, with sound
- A copy of the book *The Tin Forest*
- Newspapers
- Recyclable materials
- Sticking materials (glue, masking tape, sticky tape)
- Scissors
- A quiet place for reflection

Notes

Story

Be Curious (Community)

Notes



Song

Play the song *This is Our World* by iSingPop.



Children's literature

Show the cover of *The Tin Forest* – either as a physical copy of the book or an image on the board.

Ask the children:

- What do you see?
- What do you think?
- What do you know?
- What do you want to know?

Read *The Tin Forest* all the way through.

Suggested questions for discussion:

- How do you think the man felt at the beginning?
- What does it mean to 'ache'?
- Why did he 'ache with emptiness'?
- How did he feel at the end? What changed for him?

difference.

Space

Be Present (Embrace)

Notes

Discussion

Reflect on looking after our world.

Suggested questions:

- How does the old man look after the world around him?
- Why do you think the bird wants to come?
- Why do you think the bird wants to stay?

Talk about making people feel welcome.

Ask:

- How can we look after people in our community?
- How can we make them feel they want to stay?

Talk with the children about how they make visitors to the classroom feel welcome – for example: smile, say hello, checking if they are okay etc.



Sanctuary

Reimagine (Power)

Notes



Bible passage

"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

Leviticus 19:33

Suggested questions for discussion:

- What is a 'foreigner'? *Use this opportunity to gauge pupils' understanding/thinking.*
- Who are the foreigners in the story? (e.g. the bird)
- How do you think hearing the word 'foreigner' might make some people feel?
- Which words can we use instead to make others feel more welcome?

Ask:

- How can we create beauty out of things which seem unwanted or undervalued?



Activity Creating beauty

Show children a selection of images of discarded items that have been reused to create beautiful objects – we've included some examples in the slide deck, or you can show your own.

Then choose which activity to complete with the children:

Notes

1 Newspaper flowers

Make newspaper flowers or recycled art with the class. Create a display to show how unwanted or used items can be turned into a thing of beauty.

2 Sculptures

Collect objects weeks prior to this session such as egg boxes, cereal boxes and make sculptures from them.



Reflection

You may want to read this reflection aloud to your pupils.

It is important to look after the world around us and welcome others. Sometimes people may feel unwanted and unwelcome, but it is important to make them feel valued, so they feel like they belong.

We want to welcome everyone into our class and into our community!



Prayer

Dear God,

We want everyone in our world to feel as though they have a place. Help us to show kindness to others so that they know they are wanted in our community.

May we continue to feel peace in places where we belong and help others to feel the same.

We ask this in your name.

Amen.



Song

Finish the course by playing the song *Three Little Birds* by Bob Marley – you can find this online.

Suggested questions for discussion:

- Why does the song tell us 'don't worry'?
- Why is it good not to worry?
- In the song, the three little birds are singing in the morning. How would you feel if you heard birds singing at the start of the day?

Remind the children about the first session – how we talked about hope being when we believe that things can turn out well, instead of worrying that something will go wrong. We want to live with more hope and less worry.



End of sessions