

RECEPTION

LESSON 1: Caring Friendships

Learning Intention

To explore how friendships can help us feel happy and how we can welcome others.

Learning Outcomes (Child facing)

- I can say how friends make us feel.
- I can show a kind way to welcome someone.
- I can spot when someone might feel left out.

Resources

- Reception lesson 1 social story
- Elephant glove puppet or toy
- Pictures of children at school

Activities

1. Group Agreement

Introduce some 'circle time' rules to the class i.e. look at and listen to the person who is speaking, put your hand up to talk and to sit with your legs crossed. Introduce Ezza the elephant and explain you are going to pass Ezza around the circle to meet everyone. Practice 'circle talk' passing the elephant around the circle quietly and gently. If the person holding the Elephant wants to they can say 'Hello Ezza my name is...

2. Feeling Faces

Each lesson begins with a "feeling faces" activity to help children recognise, name and express different emotions. This routine builds a shared emotional vocabulary that supports children in understanding their own feelings and recognising the feelings of others.

In a circle, invite the class to practise showing different emotions on their faces. Begin by introducing the feeling "happy". Ask the children to cover their faces with their hands like a mask and to think of something that makes them feel happy. Give examples like playing with a friend or a sunny day. Count to three and ask them to uncover their "happy" faces. Encourage them to look around the circle to see how the other children look when they feel happy.

Gently shake off the happy faces and repeat the process using other feelings "sad" and "shy". These feelings will all appear in the story below.

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3. Storytime - Ezza the Elephant's First Day at School

Use the 'Reception lesson 1 Social story' and the elephant puppet to tell the simple story of Ezza's first day at school.

Ask questions to check understanding: How did Ezza feel when mum left to go home?
What helped Ezza feel better? What did Heckle do that was kind?

4. Feeling Left Out

Move the class to tables and give each table a couple of Pictures of children at school.

Ask - "Can you see anyone who might feel shy or left out?" "What makes you think that?"

Misconceptions to watch out for. Children may assume someone standing alone is sad. Explore other possibilities, they might be waiting, feeling shy or feeling cross and need some space to calm down.

5. Recap and Review

Back in a circle on the floor ask how we could welcome new people to the classroom for example:

Smile

Say hello

Ask if they want to join a game

Tell them our name and ask what their name is

Ask if there is a game they like to play

Summarise: "Friends can help us feel happy. We can look out for children who might feel shy and welcome them in."

Suggested Reading

Strictly No Elephants, Lisa Mantchev

Stick and Stone, Beth Ferry

The Big Umbrella, Amy June Bates