



EduTrend Contents

P4C · FALLACIES AND TRICKY THINKING · PRIMARY

Everyone Says So!

If everyone believes something, does that make it true?

Ages 5–7

Level: Foundation

30 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

Everyone Says So!

The facilitator tells an invented story: in Silly Town, everyone says the moon is made of cheese, so Pip believes it too, until a visitor asks how they know. Children laugh, then think. They suggest questions and vote on one, such as “If everyone believes it, does that make it true?” The enquiry helps children see the difference between popular and true.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- notice a reasoning trick;
- ask how we know;
- give a reason;
- listen to others.

KEY WORDS

believe · everyone · true · check · know · trick

CURRICULUM LINKS

Science: finding out. PSHE: peer pressure. English: stories.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree, add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- The Silly Town story (included)
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–5 min Stimulus	Tell the Silly Town moon story.	<i>“What did you notice?”</i>
5–12 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>“Which question is most interesting to talk about?”</i>
12–26 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other’s ideas.	<i>“If everyone believes it, does that make it true?”</i>
26–30 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>“Has your thinking changed?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Say one way Pip could find out what the moon is made of.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Believing something because many people believe it is a common reasoning mistake.

Asking “how do you know?” is a simple habit that protects against tricky thinking.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Lots of people can’t be wrong.” They can.
- “If a grown-up says it, it’s true.” Grown-ups can be wrong.
- “Checking is rude.” It is good thinking.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use puppets for the story.

Stretch

Ask: can everyone be right about some things?

WORKSHEET 1

How do we know?

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw ways to check.

How do we know?

Look	Ask	Test

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

How can we find out if something is true? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Notices the trick	Gives a reason	Listens to others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Everyone Says So! is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Fallacies and Tricky Thinking programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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