



EduTrend Contents

P4C · FRIENDSHIP AND BELONGING · PRIMARY

What Is a Friend?

A teddy bear's search for a friend starts an enquiry into friendship

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

What Is a Friend?

The facilitator introduces Ted, a teddy bear who wants a friend. Ted meets a kitten who plays with him but never shares, a robot who always agrees with him and a rabbit who tells him when he is being unkind. Children decide who is Ted's real friend, then create questions and vote on one, such as "What makes someone a good friend?"

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- describe what friends do;
- ask a question about friendship;
- give a reason;
- take turns to speak.

KEY WORDS

friend · share · kind · play · trust · together

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: relationships. English: story discussion. Circle time.

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)

- A teddy bear
- Pictures of the kitten, robot and rabbit
- 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 story of Ted meeting three possible friends.	<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>“What makes someone a good friend?”</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 who Ted’s best friend is and give a reason.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Friendship has been a subject of philosophy since ancient Greece.

Young children often start by defining friends as people they play with, and enquiry helps them add ideas such as trust and kindness.

Common ideas to listen for

- “A friend always agrees with you.” Friends can disagree kindly.
- “You can only have one best friend.” People can have many friends.
- “Friends never fall out.” Friends can make up.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use yes and no cards for each character.

Stretch

Ask: can a toy be a real friend?

WORKSHEET 1

A good friend

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw and write.

A good friend

A good friend...	Why

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.

Can you be friends with someone who is very different from you? 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	Describes friendship	Gives a reason	Takes turns

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

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

What Is a Friend? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Friendship and Belonging 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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