



EduTrend Contents

P4C · FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE · PRIMARY

Equal or Fair?

Does giving everyone the same thing always make things fair?

Ages 8–11

Level: Developing

45 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 02

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

ACTIVITY 02 · AT A GLANCE

Equal or Fair?

Pupils look at invented scenarios: three children of different heights trying to see over a wall with one box each; a class where everyone gets the same reading book whatever their level; a race where one runner has a sprained ankle. They decide what equal treatment and fair treatment would look like in each, then create questions and enquire into when fair might mean different.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- distinguish equality and fairness;
- reason about needs;
- use examples and counter-examples;
- build on others' ideas.

KEY WORDS

equal · equity · need · fair ·
difference · treatment

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: inclusion. Maths: sharing.
Citizenship: fairness in society.

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)

- Scenario cards
- 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 02 · 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
0–8 min Stimulus	Share the three scenario cards.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–18 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
18–40 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Is giving everyone the same always fair?"</i>
40–45 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)

Explain one case where fair means the same and one where fair means different.

ACTIVITY 02 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Philosophers distinguish equality (the same for all) from equity (according to need).

Scenarios with clear differences help children notice when equal treatment leads to unequal results.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Different treatment is always unfair.” It can be fair when needs differ.
- “Fair means getting what I want.” Fairness considers others.
- “Needs are easy to measure.” People may disagree.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use pictures of each scenario.

Stretch

Invent a case where equal treatment is clearly fairest.

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Equal or fair?

For each scenario.

Equal or fair?

Scenario	Equal would be...	Fair would be...
The wall		
Reading books		
The race		

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

When should people be treated differently? 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	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

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

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Equal or Fair? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Fairness and Justice programme (primary, level: developing). 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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