



EduTrend Contents

P4C · ETHICS AND MORALITY · PRIMARY

The Broken Vase

A short story about an accident nobody saw starts a first enquiry into right and wrong

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

The Broken Vase

The facilitator reads a short invented story: Sam knocks over a vase at a friend's house while nobody is looking, then puts it back with the crack turned to the wall. Children share what they noticed, suggest questions and vote on one, such as "Is it still wrong if nobody finds out?" They sit in a circle, pass a talking object and give reasons.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- listen to a story and notice a problem;
- ask a question about right and wrong;
- give a reason with "because";
- listen to a friend's idea.

KEY WORDS

right · wrong · honest · hide ·
reason · because

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: honesty and relationships.
English: listening and speaking. RE:
moral 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 Sam and the vase story (included)
- A talking object
- 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	Read the story of Sam and the cracked vase.	<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>“Is it still wrong if nobody finds out?”</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)

Give one reason why Sam should or should not tell, and listen to a friend who thinks differently.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Philosophy for children starts from a shared story and lets children choose the question they want to think about.

Young children can give reasons and consider other views when talk is slow, safe and structured.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Accidents are always naughty.” Intentions matter.
- “If nobody saw, it doesn’t count.” We can still ask if it was right.
- “There is one right answer.” Reasons matter most.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use picture cards of the story.

Stretch

Ask: would it be different if Sam broke it on purpose?

WORKSHEET 1

Story pictures

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw what happened.

Story pictures

Beginning	Middle	End

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.

Is hiding something the same as lying? 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 problem	Gives a reason	Listens to others

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

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

The Broken Vase is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Ethics and Morality 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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