



EduTrend Contents

P4C · REASONS AND ARGUMENTS · PRIMARY

Because...

A game that helps young children give reasons for what they think

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

Because...

Children play a circle game. The facilitator says a choice, such as “Would you rather be a bird or a fish?” Each child answers and adds “because...” with a reason. The group notices different reasons for the same choice and the same reason for different choices. Then children suggest questions and vote on one, such as “What makes a good reason?”

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- give a reason using “because”;
- notice different reasons;
- compare reasons;
- take turns.

KEY WORDS

because · reason · choose · why · agree · disagree

CURRICULUM LINKS

English: using conjunctions. PSHE: sharing opinions. Maths: explaining choices.

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)

- Would-you-rather 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 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	Play the would-you-rather “because” game.	<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 a good reason?”</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 a reason for your choice that someone else might agree with.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Using “because” is one of the first steps in giving reasons.

Hearing others’ reasons helps children see that people can disagree reasonably.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Because I want to” is always enough.” Ask why you want to.
- “If we disagree, one is wrong.” Both may have reasons.
- “Reasons must be long.” Short reasons can be good.

Adapting the activity

Support

Give a sentence frame: I think... because...

Stretch

Give two different reasons for the same choice.

WORKSHEET 1

I think... because...

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw or write.

I think... because...

I think	because

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 two people have good reasons for different answers? 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	Uses because	Gives a reason	Listens to others

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

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Because... is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Reasons and Arguments 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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