



EduTrend Contents

P4C · GROWING UP AND CHANGE · PRIMARY

Is It Better to Be a Child or a Grown-Up?

Weighing the good and hard parts of each stage of life

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

Is It Better to Be a Child or a Grown-Up?

Pupils hear an invented story in which a child and a grandparent swap lives for a day. The child finds bills and work hard; the grandparent loves playing but finds school rules strict. Pupils list good and hard parts of each life, then create questions and enquire into whether it is better to be a child or a grown-up.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- compare stages of life;
- give reasons for and against;
- consider different perspectives;
- build on others' ideas.

KEY WORDS

child · adult · freedom ·
responsibility · play · worry

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: growing up. English:
perspective in stories. History:
childhood in the past.

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)

- Life-swap story
- Good and hard chart
- 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	Read the life-swap story.	<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 it better to be a child or a grown-up?"</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)

Argue which is better with two reasons.

ACTIVITY 02 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Philosophers disagree about whether childhood is mainly preparation for adulthood or valuable in its own right.

Comparing perspectives helps children see value in their own stage of life.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Adults can do whatever they want.” Adults have many responsibilities.
- “Childhood is only practice for adulthood.” It has its own value.
- “Children don’t have worries.” Children can worry too.

Adapting the activity

Support

List two good things for each.

Stretch

Ask: which age would you choose to be forever, and why?

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Child or grown-up?

Compare.

Child or grown-up?

	Good parts	Hard parts
Child		
Grown-up		

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

What do children know that adults forget? 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

Is It Better to Be a Child or a Grown-Up? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Growing Up and Change 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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