



EduTrend Contents

P4C · GROWING UP AND CHANGE · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Does Age Make You Wise?

Experience, knowledge and wisdom

Ages 12–14

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 04

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

ACTIVITY 04 · AT A GLANCE

Does Age Make You Wise?

Students read invented short cases: a grandparent who gives thoughtful advice, a young child who says something surprisingly wise, a clever adult who makes a foolish choice and a teenager who helps a friend well. They discuss who shows wisdom, then create questions and enquire into whether age makes you wise.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- distinguish knowledge, experience and wisdom;
- analyse cases;
- reason about age and wisdom;
- build a justified view.

KEY WORDS

wise · clever · experience ·
knowledge · judgement · age

CURRICULUM LINKS

English: wise characters in stories.
RE: wisdom traditions. PSHE:
decision-making.

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)

- Wisdom case 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 04 · 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 four wisdom cases.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–20 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
20–44 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Does age make you wise?"</i>
44–50 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 whether age makes you wise, with an example.

ACTIVITY 04 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Philosophers often describe wisdom as good judgement about how to live and act, not just knowing facts.

Experience can help wisdom grow, but it does not guarantee it.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Older people are always wiser.” Not always.
- “Clever means wise.” Knowledge and judgement differ.
- “Children cannot be wise.” Children can show wisdom.

Adapting the activity

Support

Compare two cases.

Stretch

Write a definition of wisdom and test it.

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Clever or wise?

Sort cases.

Clever or wise?

Case	Clever?	Wise?	Why

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

What is the difference between being clever and being wise? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	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

Does Age Make You Wise? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Growing Up and Change programme (middle school, level: intermediate). 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.

© 2026 EduTrend Contents. This activity may be printed and copied for use with students in your own school, club or home. It may not be resold or published elsewhere. Photos: Patrick Fore / Unsplash.