

Puppet Play

Respectful Relationships

To build empathy, emotional awareness, and respectful problem-solving through imaginative storytelling and puppet-based role play.



Learning Intentions

Students look to recognise emotions and describe how they affect behaviour.



This supports emotional literacy by helping students understand how they and others feel in social situations.

Students aim to use their imagination to show kindness and solve problems in a respectful way.

Students will explore relationship skills like empathy and inclusion through creative play.

Students learn to work with others to create and share a story about relationships.

This promotes teamwork, communication, and reflection on respectful peer interactions.



Success Criteria

Emotion Recognition:

Students can identify and act out different feelings using their puppets.



Problem-Solving with Respect:

Students include kind and fair responses in their puppet shows when faced with challenges.

Teamwork and Creativity:

Students collaborate respectfully to design, build, and perform a puppet show using shared ideas.



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Objective:

To build empathy, emotional awareness, and respectful problem-solving through imaginative storytelling and puppet-based role play.

Players:

Small groups of 3–4 students.

Materials:

- Paper bags, socks, or cardboard for puppet-making
- Art supplies (coloured markers, glue, wool, coloured paper, fabric scraps, pipe cleaners etc)
- Popsicle sticks or straws
- Scenario prompt cards (found in PDF resource tab)

Setup:

Each group creates their own puppet characters. The teacher provides a prompt or social situation that the puppet show must explore. Encourage groups to think about how each puppet feels and acts in the story.

Activity:

1. Create Your Puppet:

Each student makes a puppet to represent themselves or an imaginary character with unique traits.

2. Choose a Scenario:

Groups randomly select or are assigned a relationship-based scenario prompt (e.g. someone is feeling left out, two friends want the same toy, one friend is sad).

3. Plan the Puppet Show:

Students work together to plan their story, including:

- The problem
- How the characters feel
- What respectful actions help solve the issue

4. Rehearse and Perform:

Groups present their puppet show to the class, focusing on emotions and respectful solutions.



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Reflection Prompt:

- What did your puppets feel in the story?
- How did they solve the problem kindly?
- How did you work together as a team?

Winning the Game:

This is a cooperative game where everyone succeeds by creating a respectful, inclusive, and creative puppet story.

Additional Notes:

Puppet Play is a powerful and engaging way for young learners to explore emotions, relationships, and conflict resolution through hands-on creativity. It allows for diverse expressions of understanding and encourages respectful dialogue in a supportive environment.



SCENARIO PROMPT CARDS

PRINT AND CUT OUT THE SCENARIO PROMPT CARDS. EACH GROUP PICKS A SCENARIO CARD, PLANS A SHORT STORY WITH THEIR PUPPETS, AND PERFORMS IT FOR THE CLASS.

A STUDENT
FEELING LEFT
OUT.

HURTING
ANOTHER
PERSON'S
FEELINGS.

NEEDING HELP
CARRYING
SOMETHING
HEAVY.

A NEW STUDENT
JOINING IN.

PLAY

PLAY



SCENARIO PROMPT CARDS

APOLOGISING
AFTER MAKING A
MISTAKE.



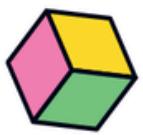
SHARING
SNACKS OR TOY.



STANDING UP
FOR SOMEONE



ARGUING BUT
FINDING A WAY
TO COMPROMISE.



SCENARIO PROMPT CARDS

ENCOURAGING
SOMEONE WHO'S
NERVOUS.

INCLUDING A
FRIEND WHO'S
TOO SHY.

DISAGREEING
BUT DECIDING
TO TAKE TURNS.

CHEERING UP AN
UPSET PERSON.

PLAY

PLAY