KINDNESS CURRICULUM

Share your precious things - Trust

EXPLANATION:

Children are more likely to feel a sense of security, well-being and belonging when they engage in trusting relationships and environments. This activity requires young children to explore trust when they share one of their most precious belongings with their class friend for the day!

YEAR LEVELS: Prior to school

STUDENT GROUPING: Class discussion and individual sharing

LINK TO CURRICULUM:

Early Years Learning Framework

Learning Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

1.1 Children feel safe, secure, and supported.

Learning Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

2.1 Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation.
2.3 Children become aware of fairness.

Learning Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

3.1 Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing.

SCOPE OF TASK:

In the early years, young children build trust via their experiences of secure, reliable relationships. A child feels safe, secure, and confident when they build trust with their teachers and class peers. Trust in relationships can have a profound effect on the way children engage supporting their social and emotional development. Asking children to share their most precious item, toy or belonging with a friend for a day will require them to trust others to care for their valuable possession.

1. Question children to establish their understanding of trust:

- Who is someone that you trust?
- Why do you trust that person?
- Can you give an example of what happens when you trust someone?
- What happens when you don't trust someone?

2. Ask the children what is something that is very precious to them? Do they have a toy that they love, a jumper, a pillow? Go around the group and ask the children to share information about what belonging they have that is very precious to them and why.
3. Tell the children about the activity they are going to do the following day: Everyone is asked to bring one item to the class the next day. For the whole day they are going to give their precious belonging to another friend to take care and they are going to return it before they go home that same day.

Note: Parents and caregivers should be informed about the activity and encouraged to talk to their child about what item is precious to them and could be taken to the classroom.

The next day or arranged time:

4. In morning group time discuss with the children how the activity will be conducted.
    - Ask children to tell others about their special and precious belonging informing others why it is important to them.
    - Probe children to discover how others will keep things safe and what will help them to trust their friends.



The teacher will need to assess the children and belongings and pair up children to swap precious items. Ask children to share details about the belonging with the other child.

- Ask the children what ways they can care for other's belongings so that they are trusted. Examples could include: taking it with them throughout the day or putting it somewhere safe; not being rough with the item, using it according to its correct purpose, not getting it dirty (e.g. if you are painting what would you do with the belonging) etc.

5. At the end of the day have children swap back their special belongings and ask them questions to reflect on the trust that was experienced:
    - How did your friend care for your belongings?
    - Did you trust them?
    - What did they do that made you trust them?
    - What could they have done that would have made you mistrust your friend?

    Discuss with the children why it is important to trust others?

RESOURCES:

- Special items children share in class