

FORGIVENESS CIRCLE TIME: YEAR 1/2

Virtue 8 - Forgiveness

Forgiveness is to let go of hurt feelings and make a new start.

Knowledge:

Understand ideas of good and bad, and right and wrong.

Skills:

Recognising ways in which their own choices and behaviour affects others.

Attitudes:

Show a willingness to care about/for others.

Show a willingness to forgive others and ask for forgiveness

Signs of living the virtue:

I accept God's forgiveness

I can forgive

I accept forgiveness from others

I have the courage to give myself and others a new start

I know that with God's love I can change

I understand that saying sorry is one way of making amends

Rules:

We listen to each other.

We do not say or do anything that would hurt another person.

We signal when we want to say something.

We may say pass.

If a game involves touch we may sit and watch before making a decision to join in.

Skills - Thinking, Looking, Listening, Speaking, Concentrating

Throughout Circle Time it is vital that teachers praise children for using the above skills.

Step 1. Game

How are you feeling?

Children are given feelings and asked to express that emotion on their face.

Step 2. Game

Puppet : I'm not sure what forgiving means...Does it mean if someone hurts me I just say, "Oh, that's o.k?"

Lead a brief discussion on what forgiveness means. Keep the discussion very simple and related to children's experiences.

Ask children to think of something that maybe someone did in class or on the playground that they have forgiven. It might help if you ask children to lower their heads or close their eyes.

Trigger statement:

I forgave my friend when...

Step 3. Open Forum

Puppet: Sometimes it's hard to forgive you know...

Teacher: Why's that puppet?

Puppet : Well the other day me and my friend were hanging our coats up...she pushed me and I fell over...then s/he said, "Sorr – eee, but s/he said it with his/her hands on his/her hips ...like this...and s/he wasn't smiling...well I didn't think s/he meant it."

Teacher: It sounds like you were feeling a bit confused puppet and you were wanting a 'sorry' that sounded sorry...What do you think?

Puppet: Yes, that's just it...

Teacher: I wonder if anyone could show us what they think Puppet would like to hear?

Step 4. Celebration

Ask the children to look around the circle. Is there anyone they would like to nominate or say thank you to for showing forgiveness. Give the children a little time together in private to decide on what it is they intend to share. They may want to keep it as a private matter.

Step 5. Ending Ritual

Send around the Sign of Peace

Peace be with you