

➤ VOLUNTEERING TO HELP OTHERS

Target Group: **Foundation to Year 2**

Australian Curriculum Reference: **Drama**

- + Use voice, facial expression, movement and space to imagine and establish role and situation (ACADRM028):
 - + communicating verbally by using the voice to explore and show role and situation
 - + communicating non-verbally by using facial expression and movement to explore and show role and situation
 - + practising movement within a space to create the difference between their performance space and the audience space.

LESSON SUMMARY

This lesson follows after the Foundation English lesson titled: *What does Volunteering mean?*

Students have already been introduced to the vocabulary of volunteering within the framework that diversity is accepted and it is 'nice' to do something for others.

This lesson will enable students to explore their understanding through the use of role play, voice and body. The warm-up exercise helps prepare students for learning through their bodies. Students will experience deeper understanding through role playing various situations of being helped and helping others. Using examples students have discovered in their English lesson will add to the authenticity of this lesson.

LESSON CONTENT AND METHODOLOGY

Introduction

- + Play circle song (see *Resources*). Students walk around in a large circle acting out words of the song. Periodically, teacher blows a whistle to indicate for students to turn around and move in the other direction around the circle.
- + Students sit on floor. Watch video clip of Todd Parr reading his book *It's OK to be Different* (see *Resources*).
- + Ask students to share what ideas they came up with on their English worksheet in the previous lesson, where they were asked to think of things they could do for others at home and at school. Write these on the board.

Body

- + Break students into groups of three. Teacher assigns each group one of the ideas from the board (ideas can be used twice, if necessary).
- + Each group has two helpers (volunteers) doing something nice, and one person needing some help or being surprised with a kind gesture.
- + Each student has a five minute turn in the *needing help* role. Each student will be a helper/volunteer twice. The teacher tells the students that they should pretend to be someone other than themselves in each of the roles.
- + Explain to students that when the whistle blows they need to stop and listen for instructions as they will be changing their character and/or role.
- + After the whistle sounds, the teacher will instruct students that the next student will rotate into the *needing help* role. The students will be reminded to change the voice, facial expression and/or body language of the characters they are acting out.

Conclusion

- + **Audience and Performance:** Teacher identifies that there are two spaces they will now use in the classroom: an audience space and a performance space.
- + In the performance space, groups take turns to present one of the role plays they developed. The rest of the class sits in the performance space.
- + Teacher leads discussion with the performers and asks questions such as the following.
 - + What was it like having someone do something nice for you?
 - + How did you feel in that role?
 - + How did it feel being the person doing something 'nice' for someone else?
 - + What would you do in real life?
 - + What did it feel like when the person was talking in a whisper, loud voice or using nervous/big movements?

ASSESSMENT

- + **Participation:** formative assessment – how comprehensive is the understanding between how voice, facial expression and body language communicate meaning? Can students role-play being a different person?
- + **Class discussion:** summative assessment – can all students identify links between feelings and voluntary roles of doing something nice for someone?

RESOURCES

- + Whistle
- + *It's OK to be Different* by Todd Parr: www.youtube.com/watch?v=G52nrYpJHfc
- + *Circle fun song* by Tumble Tots: Action Songs – Tap & Boogy. Produced by Avid Entertainment (available on iTunes)