

Early Years

RECONCILIATION – INTER-RELATING

Come and See for yourself

EXPLORE

Networks of friendships and relationships enable human beings to live together. When a child's power to reach out, trust and make friends is diminished, they may suffer the effects for a lifetime. Both children and adults have to discover their ability to reach out and repair what has been damaged.

If human beings are to live together in relationships, there is always need for reconciliation.

- Q Recall a time when you were reconciled to someone else.
- Q What or who made the reconciliation possible?
- Q How might that person have felt?
- Q How did you feel?

REVEAL

Christians believe that, in Jesus Christ, the world has been reconciled to God. Through and in Christ, every human being is offered the power to reach out in forgiveness and peace, to receive and to offer reconciliation.

Word of God

St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, wrote:

"But now in Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law." Ephesians 2:14-15

- Q How can the example of Christ bring people closer together?
- Q How does his example of making peace help you?

Catechism of the Catholic Church

"It is called the Sacrament of Reconciliation, because it imparts to the sinner the love of God who reconciles: 'Be reconciled to God'. He who lives by God's merciful love is ready to respond to the Lord's call: 'Go; first be reconciled to your brother'...

Indeed the Sacrament of Reconciliation with God brings about a true 'spiritual resurrection', restoration of the dignity and blessings of the life of the children of God, of which the most precious is friendship with God." CCC1424, 1468

RESPOND

- Q Are there any areas in the life of the school where you think it might be necessary to restore broken relationships?
- Q What opportunities are there in the classroom for restoring relationships when misunderstanding or hurt arise?
- Q How is reconciliation truly celebrated?

Prayer and Reflection

I have chosen the way of faithfulness;

I set your ordinances before me.

I cling to your decrees,

O Lord; let me not be put to shame.

I run the way of your commandments,

for you enlarge my understanding.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,

and I will observe it to the end.

Give me understanding that I may keep your law

and observe it with my whole heart.

Amen.

(Psalm 119: 30-34)

RECONCILIATION – INTER-RELATING: FRIENDS – TOPIC OVERVIEW

NURSERY & RECEPTION 4 WEEKS | Friends of Jesus

TEACHERS' NOTES		
<p>Christians believe that, in Jesus Christ, the world has been reconciled to God. Through Christ we are offered the power to forgive and make peace and to receive and offer reconciliation. Relationships bring both joy and challenge.</p> <p>Scripture: John 15:15 <i>I call you friends.</i></p> <p>Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1468 The sacrament of Reconciliation with God brings about a true 'spiritual resurrection', restoration of the dignity and blessings of the life of the children of God, of which the most precious is friendship with God.</p>		
ABOUT THE TOPIC		
<p>Prior learning: that everyone has good news, and that Pentecost is the celebration of the Good News of Jesus</p> <p>This topic learning outcomes: Know and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can make friends – Explore • Jesus had good friends; what Jesus tells us about friendship – Reveal <p>Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above – Respond</p>		
SCRIPTURE	TRADITION	
<p>Mark 6: 7, 30-32 <i>God's Story 2</i> page 66 (Notes page 99)</p> <p>John 13: 34 <i>God's Story 1</i> pages 32-33 Nursery</p> <p>John 13: 34-35 <i>God's Story 2</i> pages 72-73 Reception (Notes page 100)</p>	<p>Friendship with Jesus</p>	
SOME QUESTIONS OF MEANING & PURPOSE	CORE VOCABULARY	
<p>Who are your friends? Why are they your friends? Are you anyone's friend?</p>	<p>friend, happy, sad, love, make up, kind, gentle, loving, sorry, Jesus, forgive, change</p> <p>Reception: rule, understanding, new start, friendship, forgive, change</p>	
RESOURCES	AREAS OF LEARNING	
<p><i>God's Story 1</i> <i>God's Story 2</i> <i>Friends of Jesus</i> by Victoria Hummell ISBN: 978-0855976408 <i>More Friends of Jesus</i> by Victoria Hummell ISBN: 978-0855976507 <i>The Selfish Crocodile</i> by Faustin Charles, ISBN: 978-0747541936 <i>The Snow Child</i> by Freya Littledale ISBN: 978-0590421416 <i>The Pain and the Great One</i> by Judy Blume ISBN: 978-0330453912 <i>Let's be Friends Again</i> by Hans Wilhelm ISBN: 978-0340421321</p>	<p>Areas of Learning (England) Areas of Learning (Wales)</p> <p>Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)</p>	
COME AND SEE WEBSITE	STANDARD INDICATORS	
	<p>Learning about religion Beliefs, teaching & sources Celebrations and ritual Social and moral practices and way of life</p> <p>Learning from religion Engagement with own & others' beliefs & values Engagement with questions of meaning</p>	
RE CURRICULUM DIRECTORY	LITURGICAL/PRAYERS LINKS	SONGS/HYMNS TO SING
<p>Area of Study 1: Knowing and loving God, the scriptures, creation, the trinity, Jesus Christ, son of God, the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Area of Study 3: liturgy, Reconciliation, prayer</p> <p>Area of Study 4: The dignity of the human person, freedom, responsibility and conscience, love of God, love of neighbour</p>	<p>Litany of thanks for friends...</p>	<p>See John Burland Grid <i>A new Commandment chorus</i> <i>Come and join the circle</i> <i>Bernadette Farrell</i></p>

EXPLORE

We can make friends

AREAS OF LEARNING

Early Learning Goals (England/Wales)

STANDARD INDICATOR

Some children will begin to **talk** about their experiences and feelings about what a friend is.
Some children will begin to **talk** about making friends and when friendships go wrong.
Some children will begin to **wonder** about what makes people friends.

KEY WORDS

friend, happy, sad, love, make up, kind, gentle, loving, sorry

Reception: rule, understanding, new start, friendship

RESOURCES

- *The Selfish Crocodile by Faustin Charles ISBN: 978-0747541936*
- *The Snow Child by Freya Littledale ISBN: 978-0590421416*
- *The Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume ISBN: 978-0330453912*
- *Let's be Friends Again by Hans Wilhelm ISBN: 978-0340421321*

NURSERY FOCUS: Being a friend.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Through any of the recommended stories or online resources, explore what it means to be a friend. All the activities being undertaken this first week need to include the following elements:

- Friends look after and do things for one another.
- Friends do things together.
- Friends make one another happy, comfortable and glad.
- Things that spoil friendship.
- Making friends again.

RECEPTION FOCUS: Making friends and being a friend.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Through any of the recommended stories or online resources explore what it means to be a friend. All the activities being undertaken this first week need to include the following elements:

- Friends look after and do things for one another.
- Friends do things together.
- Friends make one another happy, comfortable and glad.
- Things that spoil friendship.
- Making friends again.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q How do we make friends?
- Q Why is it important to have a friend?
- Q What do friends do together?

NURSERY & RECEPTION

ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Make paper chain teddies of friendship.
- Make a collage with handprints to display.
- Make friendship bracelets.
- Hold a teddy bears' picnic outside.
- ✿ Use symbol supported text for friends lotto or matching games.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Have a friends' tea party in the home corner.
- Paint or draw a friend.
- Make models of friends.
- An assortment of games to play with friends: *Farmer's in his Den, Happy Families, Snap, Football, Catch*

REFLECTION ON SIGNIFICANCE

Gather round the display or focus. Have a quiet moment together to reflect on and appreciate how we all have friends and are a friend to others.

Think about our friends.

Appreciate what makes a good friend.

Consider how friendship can be spoilt and how we can make up.

Celebrate friendship.

REVEAL

Jesus had good friends; what Jesus tells us about friendship

CONTENT: scripture – tradition – prayers

AREAS OF LEARNING

Early Learning Goals (England/Wales)
Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

KEY WORDS

Jesus, forgive, change

STANDARD INDICATOR

Some children will begin to **recognise** that Christians show love for one another because Jesus asked them to do so.

Some children will begin to **recognise** Jesus' rule for friends and his words 'love one another'.

RESOURCES

- *God's Story 1*
- *God's Story 2*

NURSERY FOCUS WEEK 1: We can be friends of Jesus.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Use the picture of all God's children from *God's Story 1* page 38-39.

- Q** What does the picture tell us about friends?
- Introduce the children to Jesus as their friend. Refer back to *God's Story 1* pages 30 and 31 (People brought their children to Jesus). Jesus is a friend for children today. Children can talk to Jesus as their friend, they can tell him about all that is important to them. During prayer times this week, invite the children to talk to Jesus, their friend, in their own words.

ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Make a collage of Jesus and his friends. Each group could create a different friend.
- Add to the collage pictures of themselves to show we are friends of Jesus.
- Make up a 'friendship action song' to include smiling, shaking hands, giving a hug, sharing your sweets etc. to the tune of 'Here we go round the mulberry bush...'
This is the way, we share our sweets, share our sweets x 2,
This is the way, we share our sweets if we want to be good friends.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Role play being friends of Jesus.

NURSERY FOCUS WEEK 2: What Jesus tells us about being friends.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Display the picture from *God's Story 1* pages 32-33. Share the reading John 13: 34-35. Consider what would happen if no-one helped, cared or shared for each other in this picture.

During the course of the week, the class teacher and any additional adults should draw attention to those children who are displaying the qualities of friendship and affirm them. Take the opportunity when things go wrong to discuss how they feel and make up as friends.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q What is the most important thing Jesus tells us about being friends?
- Q How are the children in the picture doing this?
- Q What do you do to help at home?

ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Enlarge a copy of the picture, recognise what is happening in the picture and talk about it. Invite the children to talk about how they can be friends at home.
- Sing friendship songs together.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Role play showing love and friendship in the home corner.

RECEPTION FOCUS WEEK 1: Jesus had friends, we can be friends of Jesus.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Create a place in the classroom where they can be quiet and still and reflect. Each day this week provide time for the children to share the joys and challenges of being a friend. During prayer times this week, invite the children to talk to Jesus, their friend, in their own words.

Display the image of Jesus and his friends *God's Story 2* page 66 based on Mark 6:7, 30-32. Tell the story using the picture to discover what Jesus and his friends did together. Encourage the children to act out sections of the story.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q How do we know they are friends?
- Q What does the picture tell us about friends?
- Q What did Jesus and his friends do? (They worked, told people the Good News of God's love for everyone, answered questions.)
- Q Where did they go when they were tired?
- Q What did they do together? (eat, shared experiences, rested)
- Q Where do you go when you are tired?
- Q Who do you talk to about your experiences of the day? e.g. what has gone well/what has not.
- Q Where do you go to be quiet and still?

ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Draw a picture of your friend, put *friendship* words (e.g. loving, kind, caring, sharing etc), around your picture and talk about what you like about your friend and what you do together.
- Scribe the children's responses to the joys and challenges of friendship on links that will form a 'friendship' chain. Add it to the focus area.
- Write a letter to Jesus asking him to help them be a good friend.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Continue to role play being a good friend.

RECEPTION FOCUS WEEK 2: Jesus' rule for friends.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Display A New Rule: *God's Story 2* pages 72-73 based on John 13: 34-35. Share the story about Jesus' rule and talk about it. Join together in a circle and recreate the picture. Sing a circle song e.g. *Come and join the Circle*, Bernadette Farrell or something similar.

Is there anything which might break the friendship circle? Talk about the things that can make you and others unhappy. Introduce saying sorry and what it means to forgive each other so we can mend broken friendships.

During the course of the week the class teacher and any additional adults should draw attention to those children who are displaying the qualities of friendship and affirm it. Take the opportunity when things go wrong to discuss how they feel and make up as friends

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q What is Jesus' rule?
- Q What will happen when you are happy together?
- Q Why do you like your friends?
- Q What makes a good friend?
- Q What will help to mend the circle?

ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Teacher and other adults to role play situations where the children can decide who are friends and who are not and how they can say sorry to one another.
- Make a 'friendship ring' candle holder with malleable material.
- Compose a Litany of thanks for friends...
- Continue to sing friendship songs.
- Write a story about being sorry and making friends again, you could use photos taken of the role play.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Make friendship cards to give to a friend.
- Role play falling out with a friend and making up by saying sorry.

RESPOND

Remembering, celebrating and responding to how we can make good friends, that Jesus had good friends and what Jesus tells us about friendship

Remember

Start the session with a moment of quiet reflection. Provide each child with the opportunity to engage with questions of meaning and purpose related to *Friends*.

Using the display, children may be able to contribute to the following by use of discussion, role-play, drama, art, cue cards etc.

Ask the children if there is anything they wonder about

- How friends make us feel happy, comfortable and glad.
- What breaks and mends friendships.
- How Jesus is our friend.

Provide the opportunity, possibly by one of the means above, for the children to remember

- It is good to have friends.
- What Jesus tells us about being friends.
- Jesus' new rule for friends.
- How we can change and say sorry and forgive each other.

Rejoice

Remember to plan an end of topic celebration. (*Download the Rejoice and Gather Form on the Come and See website.*)

Renew

The teacher helps each child to make an individual response to what they have understood and celebrated from their own experience and of the experience of the Church community.

Apply their learning

How can I show friendship or forgiveness to someone today?

Some suggested ideas

- Take home their 'friendship ring' candle holder. Ask their parents to light the candle when they reflect on what has gone well and what has not.
- Think about some ways to show friendship or forgiveness.

Teacher evaluation

This is ongoing and will inform future teaching and learning, which will include assessment for learning.

STANDARD SUMMARY

Some children will begin to **talk** about their experiences and feelings about what a friend is.
Some children will begin to **talk** about making friends and when friendships go wrong.
Some children will begin to **wonder** about what makes people friends.

Some children will begin to **recognise** that Christians show love for one another because Jesus asked them to do so.
Some children will begin to **recognise** Jesus' rule for friends and his words 'love one another'.

CHURCH TEACHING

This is an outline of the teaching of the Church covered in **FRIENDS**:

- Jesus' relationship with his disciples.
- Talking to Jesus as a friend.
- God is kind, understanding, loving and gentle, always ready to forgive and never changes.
- Changing, saying sorry and being forgiven.
- Forgiving others.