

LESSON PLAN for volunteers

Theme — My town

The town as a place of experiencing the first social contacts outside the nuclear family unit, a place of forming the first friendships, building one's position and one's role in a wider group. The theme allows for working with the questions and challenges of joining one's first social group, for exploring the specifics of one's place of residence and realizing what the town/community offers and what oneself can offer in return. The point is to support active involvement of an individual in the life of the town/ community (cultural and public), acceptance of one's identity and his unique contribution to the local community.

Lesson

Make your own green kit

Children will create their own green kit to carry it with them when they visit parks or nature. (This eco-friendly green kit that could include biodegradable rubbish bags, gloves, a litter picker, bird food).

Lesson focus and goals

- Communicate children's ideas about the effects of litter and pollution and influencing attitudes towards behavior change, and sustainability.
- To keep their town litter-free and enhance skills to respect the environment and to become active citizens.

Materials

map of the town
biodegradable bags
gloves
seeds for bird food
cardboard or envelope
markers, pencils, crayons

Activities

- Volunteers present the city map to the children. Children can use the map of their town to find various spots
- The volunteers support teachers to present the items that will be used for the kit (biodegradable bags, gloves, cardboard, bird food). Volunteers help children fold the items and wrap them with cardboard, or put them in an envelope.
- Children will keep the kits in their school bags for their nature walks, in order to keep nature clean.
- Volunteers can keep some of the kits that children made to share them to the community
- Children, teachers, parents and volunteers can go on a nature walk and clean the area with the kits to make the space a little cleaner than it was.

Tips for specific types of inclusion/handicaps

Research the route, consider accessibility, and anticipate potential sensory triggers. Bring sensory-friendly equipment, noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, blankets. Encourage the child to touch, smell, and observe the environment, and incorporate sensory activities e.g. listening to bird sounds. Use a visual schedule to help the child understand the sequence of the walk and what to expect.

Tips for parenting support

Parents can engage with children and encourage them to make their green kit by helping them fold the items. Parents can participate in the activities with the children, interact with other parents and teachers, and use the opportunity to learn about their child's interests and development in a new environment.

Technical terms

"Education for sustainable development" is a pedagogical approach that aims to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to contribute to a more sustainable future. This approach seeks to integrate sustainability into all aspects of education, from curriculum design to teaching methods and assessment, and to foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and active citizenship among learners.

Methodology

A participatory and place-based methodology is recommended. This methodology involves engaging children in hands-on and experiential learning activities that are relevant to their local context and that promote their connection to the natural and social environment. It also involves involving families and community members in the educational process, and fostering collaboration, dialogue, and reflection among all stakeholders.