

LESSON PLAN for volunteers

Theme • My country

The country where one lives, the country where one comes from, the country where one's family comes from. The country as a place where different nationalities meet, along with their culture, customs, traditions and historical heritage. The theme enables to realize the differences and mutual synergies of different cultures and to implement activities to further explore them. The point of the theme is to help creating a positive approach to the concepts of nationality and culture in their diversity and to build mutual respect for otherness. The intention is to facilitate the coexistence and respect of different cultures in the country where one lives. Each culture has its own specifics which can appeal to others.

Lesson

Persona Dolls workshop:

Persona Dolls is an innovative educational tool that approaches diversity and promotes non-discrimination through creative play and communication skills.

Lesson focus and goals

- help children to challenge unfairness, discrimination, prejudice and racism.
- help to build up children's self esteem and confidence, developing emotional literacy.
- encourage children to learn about cultures and celebrate difference in a positive way.

Materials

- Persona doll
- A passport with the doll's personal information
- A bag with artefacts relating to the doll's culture
- A scrapbook to be filled in as the doll visits kid's home

Activities

Volunteers can play a crucial role in supporting the implementation of the doll-based methodology in early childhood education settings. They can assist the teacher-user of the doll in introducing the doll to the children, providing additional context and information about the doll's family and interests, and helping to facilitate discussions and problem-solving activities during the second and third stages. Volunteers can also provide additional support and attention to children who may need extra help or guidance during the process. Additionally, volunteers can help to reinforce the social and emotional learning outcomes by engaging in follow-up activities and discussions with the children after the doll has said goodbye. Overall, volunteers can bring enthusiasm, creativity, and a fresh perspective to the doll-based methodology, and can help to create a positive and engaging learning environment for young children.

Tips for specific types of inclusion/handicaps

- Create a structured and predictable environment with clear routines and schedules.
- Use visual supports such as picture schedules, social stories, and visual aids, gestures, and body language to support communication and understanding.
- Ensure that the child feels welcomed and valued by providing a supportive and inclusive environment that respects their identity.

Tips for parenting support

- Increase in correct ascription
- Story-telling
- Supporting 'scrap book' visits to children's homes
- Engage with parents and carers in supporting pupils' achievement, behaviour and safety and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Technical terms

A pedagogical puppet, also known as a persona doll, is a teaching tool used to explore diversity and promote inclusion in early childhood education. It involves the use of a doll that is introduced to children as a character with a unique identity, background, and set of experiences. Through interaction with the doll, children are encouraged to develop empathy, respect for diversity, and critical thinking skills. Pedagogical puppets are widely used in classrooms around the world as a means of promoting social justice and equity in education.

Methodology

The methodology used with pedagogical puppets or persona dolls is often based on the principles of social constructivism and critical pedagogy. It involves creating a safe and inclusive environment where children can explore issues of diversity and inclusion through play, dialogue, and problem-solving. The role of the teacher is to facilitate learning by guiding the children's interactions with the puppet, asking open-ended questions, and encouraging reflection and critical thinking.