Year 1

Lesson 1 Different Friends

Learning Intention
To understand that we are all different but can still be friends

Learning Outcomes
Know that we can be friends with people who are different to us

Resources
Talking object
Story bag containing an elephant puppet (or the elephant picture) and a school jumper or shirt if the school has one.
Paper and coloured pencils

Activities

1. Group Agreement
In a circle, discuss some rules to help the class work together; include listening, not talking when others are talking, not laughing at other people, taking turns and teamwork.

2. Pass the Talking Object
Explain that the talking object gives the holder permission to speak and that no-one speaks unless they have the object in their hand and no-one speaks unless they want to. Pass the talking object around the circle. As each person receives the object ask them to complete the sentence *Hello my name is…* This is a good opportunity to gently remind the class of the ground rules as the object goes around the circle, for example, if someone throws the object ask them to try passing it again.

3. Feeling Faces
Ask the class to practice putting different feelings on their faces. Suggest happy, nervous, cross and proud. Ask the group to make a mask by covering their faces with their hands and then to think of something that makes them feel happy, giving examples such as a beautiful sunny day. On the count of three the group uncover their 'happy' faces. Gently shake off those faces and repeat with the other feelings. Suggest happy, cross and relaxed. This helps to build a shared emotional vocabulary which can be used throughout the sessions.

4. Story Bag
Introduce the story bag, explain that it contains items that will help to tell a story. Can the class guess what is inside? Take out the jumper and the elephant, tell the class that the story is about a child called Jai who goes to this school. Read the bullet points below as a story and encourage the children to act out the different emotions.

- One morning Jai got to school feeling really happy. (Everyone show their happy faces).
- Jai went to the classroom and saw there was a new child. The new child was sat in Jai's seat. This made Jai feel cross (everyone show their cross faces).
- The teacher told Jai to sit next to the new child who's name was Bo.
- Bo was really different to the other children at school, they looked different, when they spoke they sounded different, their clothes were different and at lunchtime they ate different food.
- At first Jai couldn't decide whether to make friends with Bo. Bo was so different.
- That all changed in the playground later. Bo told Jai a joke about an elephant on a trampoline. It was the funniest joke that Jai had ever heard and they both laughed about it for the rest of the day. (Quickly pass the elephant around the circle).

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- The next morning Jai and Bo felt really relaxed sitting next to each other (everyone show their relaxed faces). They had made friends even though they were very different.
- Put the items back in the bag and explain that there will be another story about Jai next time

Ask questions to explore the story: What was different about Bo? How did Bo and Jai make friends? Is it okay to have friends that are different to us?

5. Drawing Different Friends
At tables, ask the class to draw pictures of an imaginary new person who is really different to them but they would like to be their friend. *It's Okay to be Different* by Todd Parr can be used to give some examples of difference or ask the class to list the ways we can be different to our friends and list some possibilities on the board.

6. Feedback
Share the pictures as a group and congratulate the class on the differences. Why do they think that it is important to be kind to people who are different to us?

7. Reflect and Review
Use the talking object to do a final go-round: *One thing I like to do with my friends is ...*