



**HONESTY**



**3-6 years**



**Groups of 4-5  
children**



**45 minutes**



## **A PUPPET COMES TO CLASS!**



The aim of this workshop is to motivate and direct children towards honesty and critical thinking via a role play game. The idea is to encourage them to express their feelings and opinions in an honest way thus also developing their self-esteem.

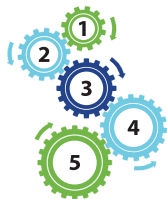
Encourage children to:

- talk about their feelings in an honest way
- express their opinion
- think critically.



Make a Puppet from a sock. Craft her eyes, mouth and hair from different fabrics and glue it on top of the sock.  
Example of a Puppet:





The idea is that the Puppet will seek help from the children and wants to talk to them about things that affect honesty and self-esteem. Topics in the puppet's sentences are related to:

- praise from others
- fear of failure
- making your own decisions.

Sentences in text below are just an example and you can use your own sentences depending on the needs, habits and children's experience. After saying the sentence, puppet asks the questions and starts the conversation with children.

Note: Children at this age don't have fully developed abstract thinking and they often don't give direct answers to asked questions. Instead of direct answers they will rather retell events from their lives. So please don't expect from children to give the direct answers to given questions. If same questions are hard or incomprehensible for children try to simplify them and ask additional questions. The aim is that children, through questions and stories, think about a given topic, listen to the opinions of others and give their own opinion.

1. Before you start the workshop, ask the children to sit in circle and make sure that they are relaxed. Tell the children that today they have a guest in the class who is looking for their help.

2. Put the puppet on your hand and start the conversation with children. You can make your own introduction e.g. Hello children! My name is Mola! I heard that you are awesome children and that's why I came to you. You see, I need your help with something. Yesterday, I had a very silly day, full of unusual events. My thoughts are flying in my head like crazy and that is why I need your help. Will you help me? (Let the children answer.)

3. After the children give the answer read the following key topic and questions and select those you consider most important in the class:

Key topic: Praise from others: you can select one of these sentences:

- Kindergarten teacher praised me because I helped John.
- My grandmother told me that I have beautiful voice.
- This morning I dressed myself for the first time but my mother didn't even notice.

After you read one of the proposed sentences ask the following questions: the Puppet says: Please tell me what to do!:

- How you think I felt when teacher/grandmother praised me?
- How do you think I felt when my mother didn't notice that I dressed myself?  
(The question you are going to ask, depends on the sentence posed.)
- How do you feel when someone praises you? Why do you feel this way?
- How do you feel when you do something good and others don't praise you? Why do you feel this way?
- Do you always need to seek praises from others?

Key topic: Fear of failure

- Today, I managed to lift a very heavy bag.
- I wasn't sure if I can take the dog out for a walk on my own.
- Today, I didn't succeed to climb up the slide.

After you read one of the proposed sentences ask following questions:

- What do you think how I felt when I lifted a heavy bag?
- What do you think how I felt when I wasn't sure if I can take dog out for a walk?
- What do you think how I felt when I didn't succeed to climb up the slide?  
(The question you are going to ask, depends on the sentence posed.)

- How do you feel when you can't do something on your own? Why do you feel this way?
- If you can't do something for the first time, can you try it again?
- Are there some things that you can't do right now? Which things?
- Will you be able to do these things when you grow up?



Key topic: Making your own decisions

- Erik is telling me to hit neighbor's door with one tomato.
- Ana has crossed the road while the red light was on.
- Eva wishes that we hide in the playground from our parents.

After you read one of the proposed sentences ask following questions: the Puppet says: Please tell me what to do!

- Should I listen to Erik? Why I should/shouldn't listen to Erik?
- Do I also need to cross the road while the red light is on? Why do I need/don't need to cross the road while the red light is on?
- Should I listen to Eva? Why I should/shouldn't listen to Eva? (The question you are going to ask, depend on the sentence you read.)
- Should you always do what other people tell you to do?
- Why you should/shouldn't always do what other people tell you?
- Can you decide on your own what do you want to do?

At the end of the workshop puppet tells the children: Thank you! You helped me a lot! Did this conversation help you too? Did you learn something from each other? Would you like me to visit you sometime soon?

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Ideas for additional activities: If you were not able to use all sentences and situations, the workshop can be repeated several times. You can use the puppet in different situations when communicating with children (if there is a problem in your class, you want to check how the children feel that day, etc.). Also, since some children better express their feelings, needs and desires through role-playing, allow them to express themselves by talking through "the puppet".