



COOPERATION AND MUTUAL AID



7-11



~10



FALLEN INTO THE WATER



15-20 minutes



The learning objectives of this activity are focus on communication and contact:

- making aware that each child belongs to a group;
- raising awareness that every personal characteristic is needed in a group;
- develop group cohesion and sense of belonging.



This activity can be adapted to different school subject. Collect some short questions about your current topic in class. You can repeat this activity from time to time with your class using different topics.

E.g. if you are a math teacher in a class you are doing this exercise with children, think about some exercises or riddles that fit to current topic of your lessons.

Write these questions, exercises or riddles on sheets of paper (one sheet of paper per exercise). Make shure you have got at least one question per child.



THE EXERCISE

1) Instruct the children to sit in a circle.

2) Explain the rules for this exercise and the story behind:

Pick out one child from your group to start. S/he should sit in the middle of the circle and play a first “victim”: S/he has fallen down into the water well.

For example you could use the following phrases:

S/he says: “Help me, I fell into the water well.”

The other children ask: “Who is going to save you?”

S/he answers: “The person who knows the answer on [now s/he should read out the first prepared exercise/question/riddle].”

Then all other children should think about an answer. Those who know the answer should raise their hand. The child in the middle of the circle chooses one of the children who raised a hand. If the child’s answer was correct the one in the middle “got rescued”.

Now the child who answered correctly will sit in the middle of the circle and continue the activity by saying “Help me, I fell into the water well.”... and the game continues.

You as the teacher should make sure that all children are “needed” at least once to rescue at least one child from the water well. So every child should answer at least one of the prepared questions.

REFLECTION

Explain to the children that in some situations certain characteristics are required to “save” or help others. Value should be placed on the diversity and variety of emotions and social characteristics. The ability to give a correct answer to one of the prepared questions is only an example of how individual skills of one can help someone else.

If you have time left ask your students how they felt during the exercise.

Ask your students to think about a real life example and discuss it. This will build a bridge between the activity and their personal life and cause positive effects in future.

The basic idea of this activity came from “Strong children - less violence” Project and was adjusted to the aim and to the target group of AVAL Project by ILI-FAU.

Source:

Strong children - less violence. Sammlung pädagogischer Übungen und Spiele für Kita und Grundschule, url: https://www.vhs-th.de/fileadmin/redaktion/Der_Verband/Downloads/DL-KitaSchule/StrongerChildren2_DE.pdf