

Early Years Chatterbox Unit: Friendship

What makes a good friend?

Christian Concepts

God – Creation – Fall – PEOPLE OF GOD – Incarnation – GOSPEL – Salvation – Kingdom of God

The aim of this unit is to:

- explore the meaning of friendship, how we make friends and why friends are important.
- know about Jesus making friends, how he made friends and who he chose

Christian Values

Friendship
Love
Trust

Key Questions

- What is a friend?
- How do we make friends? How do we choose friends?
- Who are our friends? What makes a good friend?
- Why are friends important?
- How does it feel when we have no friends?
- Why do we trust our friends?
- Who were Jesus' special friends?
- What makes you a good friend?

Key Vocabulary

Friend, Friendship, Trust, Love, Jesus

Link to Understanding Christianity

There is no direct link to an Understanding Christianity unit.

Content to be covered in this unit

Discussions about friends and friendship
Stories about Jesus with his friends.
Talking about Christians being friends of Jesus.
Symbols of friendship.
The story of Ruth and Naomi. (Old Testament)

Objects for your chatterbox

A friendship bracelet
The rainbow fish
A photo of you and your friends
A last supper picture (see resources section)
A toy fishing boat

Hands
Characters from the film Toy Story
Shrek and Donkey (from the film Shrek) or Marlin and Dory (from the film Finding Nemo)
Bible storybook – Ruth and Naomi

Additional items for your box

Pictures of people greeting one another

To Begin with

Open the Chatterbox together and discover what is inside. The children take turns looking at and handling the objects. The conversation and questions will generate ideas for the learning activities, make notes as you chat and your planning has begun.

The children's ideas, comments, questions, work, pictures, writing and photos are all to be recorded in one giant book (floor book). Everyone contributes either directly onto the pages or by sticking paper, objects, photos or post-its into the floor book. This book is the record of the RE that has taken place and will form the basis of your assessment.

Explore the Text

The Bible story of Ruth and Naomi (in the Old Testament book of Ruth) is often used to illustrate the qualities of good friendship. Ruth remained with Naomi when it would have been easy to leave. She went with her to live in a foreign place and take care of her. Ruth was a faithful and loyal friend. There are some lovely paintings interpreting the story of Ruth and Naomi that can be found using a Google image search. Enjoy looking at the paintings and talking about the story.

Jesus went fishing with his friends What do you like to do with your friends?

Read the stories of the Miraculous Catch of Fish (John 21:1-14) and the Calming of the Storm (Mark 4:35-41). *Record in pictures in your floor book.* Introduce the children to the belief that Christians have, that they are friends of Jesus.

Use the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Last Supper Poster. This is a picture of Jesus with his friends. They are having a meal together. What are they talking about? What do you and your friends like to eat together? What do you and your friends like to talk about? *Record in your floor book.* (There are many other activity ideas linked to the Last Supper Poster on the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education CD)

Additional suggestions for classroom provision

Outside area – Build a boat and pretend to go fishing.

Sand/water/malleable – Use boats, fish, nets and Playmobil figures in the water tray to tell the stories. *Take photos*

Creative area – Paint pictures of Ruth and Naomi. *Record in your floor book.*

Discover the impact

Draw pictures of friends. 'This is me with my friend.' *Record in your floor book.*

Tessa and Tom the persona dolls are friends and they have arrived in your class to make new friends. How will we make friends with them?

Make some new friends – invite another class to come and play in your classroom.

We/Christians are friends of Jesus.

There are lots of songs you could sing about being friends of Jesus.

*Jesus is my Saviour,
Jesus is my friend,
On the way to school
and home with me again.
Helping with my homework,
With me when I play,
Jesus is a real friend every single day.*

*I do do do do, do do do do
Love him more and more.
I do do do do, do do do do
In my heart for sure
I do do do do, do do do do
Wanna shout and sing,
Jesus is my Saviour,
Lord of everything.*

By Neville Norcross (from Great Big God CD available from BDBE)

The Rainbow Fish has to learn many lessons about what it means to be a good friend. In the first Rainbow Fish story, he needs to learn how to share. Enjoy listening to this story and discuss. *Record the children's comments in your floor book.*

Make a large display of film friendships e.g. Shrek and Donkey (Shrek), Buzz and Woody (Toy Story), Rapunzel and Pascal (Tangled), Marlin and Dory (Finding Nemo), Kristoff and Sven (Frozen), Mike and Sulley (monsters inc), Pumba and Timon (Lion King), Russell and Mr Frederickson (Up). The children will know lots of others. Talk about these friendships with the children, the ups and downs, the characteristics of the relationship etc.

Hands are often used as symbol of friendship, I wonder why?
Greetings of welcome often use hand gestures, I wonder why?

The Claddagh Symbol

This Celtic (or Irish) ancient symbol of friendship is represented by two hands holding a heart between them, with a crown on top of the heart. Hands of friendship holding a heart of love crowned with loyalty.



Additional suggestions for classroom provision

Book corner - Lots of stories about friendship.

Writing area – Write a letter to a friend.

Creative area - Make friendship bracelets. (Friendship bracelets originated from the Native Americans, they are tied onto the wrist of a friend who wears it until it is worn out and falls off.)

Make a Rainbow Fish collage and draw pictures of you and your friends sharing.

Make pictures using handprints.

By the end of this unit pupils will know that:

Christians consider themselves to be friends of Jesus.

Jesus has 12 special friends called disciples.

By the end of this unit pupils are expected to be able to:

recall/retell stories of Jesus with his friends.

talk about why friendship is important.

talk about their own experiences of friendship.

Resources***Last Supper CD***

Here is Jesus with his 12 special friends.