Character Coaching

Learning Objectives:
Children understand that when they work together - cooperate - they can do something that they would not be able to do by themselves.

Suggested Resources:
Copy of The Biggest Snowman; building blocks; puppets; colouring pencils; and paper.

Script:
Begin the lesson with a recap of the previous one. What does cooperate mean? What happened to the Little Red Hen? How should the other animals have acted? Explain to the children that they are going to learn about the good things - the benefits - of cooperating. Read the story of The Biggest Snowman with the class. What happens? What was the benefit of working all together? Could children have made such a big snowman by themselves? How did they work together? Emphasise the point that because the children cooperated, they built a snowman that was much grander than they could build by themselves.

Suggested Activities:
Creative: Children draw and label two pictures of building a snowman - one depicts what happened in the story and the other shows the opposite - what children should not do.

Role Play: Small groups of children take it in turns to use puppets to act out various scenarios depicted on picture cards. Picture cards should depict problems - for example, children bumping into each other in the playground or a very messy kitchen with only one person tidying up - and children should be encouraged to act out how the characters should cooperate together. Year 6 children may support this activity.

Construction: Small groups of (approximately 7-10) children stand in a circle. Place a hula-hoop over one child’s arm and instruct everyone to join hands. Without letting go of anyone’s hand, the team must find a way to move the hula-hoop all the way around the circle. Once the group can do it, try to do it faster next time. Children from the Year 6 class will be supporting this activity.

Plenary:
Gather children to the carpet to discuss the building block exercise. How did it work? What worked? What could have been done better?

Meaningful Praise:
Well done - you have shown that when you work cooperatively then you can make something even bigger and better than if you had done it by yourselves.

Correction:
Remember that you need to work together to do a good job at this activity and that means that you must take it in turns and listen carefully to each other.