

BEING TACTFUL

SESSION A



Tact is:

- * Telling the truth in a kindly way.
- * Being aware of how your words might make others feel.
- * Thinking before you speak.
- * Keeping over critical or harsh thoughts to yourself.

Synonyms:

- * Consideration
- * Understanding
- * Thoughtfulness

Important Phrase:

- * "A truth that's told with bad intent beats all the lies you can invent." *William Blake*

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Children know the importance of thinking before speaking, so that when they tell someone the truth it is in the kindest way possible.

Script:

Start the lesson with children watching you and another adult role play a tricky situation, demonstrating the importance of tact. You have spent hours making a delicious meal for your friend. When your friend arrives and is served the food, they shout out 'Yuck, parsnips are gross!' You begin to cry – you are upset because you spent so long making a delicious dinner.

Ask children – what just happened? What could the friend have said differently so that the cook doesn't get upset? Explain to children that what is needed in this situation is tact. Being tactful is telling the truth – that you do not like parsnips – without upsetting anyone, in this case the cook.

Role play another situation. Put a silly wig on your head. Ask the class whether they like your new hair style. Your friend did it for you. Would children in the class like their hair like this? Ask children for tactful responses. How would they respond in this situation?

Suggested Activities:

In pairs, children must role play various scenarios in which they must be tactful. They can draw on the role-modelling from the carpet session to help them. Teachers may use the following scenarios or use their own:

- * A friend makes you afternoon tea and puts raspberry jam on all of the scones. You do not like raspberry jam. Role play this situation and how you would respond.
- * It is a friend's birthday and she has invited you to a theme park for her party. You do not like rides at theme parks because they make you sick. What do you say to her?
- * You have been invited to two friends' birthday parties, but they are on the same day. What do you do?
- * You are given a present from your grandmother for Christmas. You already have the game she has bought you. What do you do?



Character Coaching

Meaningful Praise:

Well done for telling the truth without upsetting anyone. Can you tell me what you did to avoid people feeling upset even though the truth may have been difficult to hear?

Guidance:

Remember that when we tell the truth we need to be careful about how we say it, so that we do not upset anyone unnecessarily. Can you show me how to respond tactfully in this situation?

Correction:

You did not think before you spoke and, as a result, you have upset someone. You must be careful about how you speak to someone when you disagree. You do not need to lie, but you must show some tact.

How will you respond tactfully next time?

