

THE PENCIL OF PATIENCE



Patience is:

- * Waiting calmly without getting upset.
- * Trusting that things will turn out right in the end.
- * Taking time to do something properly.
- * Tolerating delays without complaining.
- * Waiting for your turn.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To learn to take turns and wait patiently.

Suggested Resources:

A brightly coloured pencil – the ‘Pencil of Patience’.

Preparation:

Practise reading the story with different voices to distinguish each of the characters as they occasionally talk over each other.

In the following week you will ask your class to talk about a personal interest or hobby, or alternatively you may wish them to talk about a subject you have been learning about in class which will provide you with an opportunity to assess their learning.

Script:

Hold up the brightly coloured pencil. “This is the pencil of patience – I like it because it helps me practise patience when I have to wait for something.”

Today I’m going to tell you the story of Rufkin and Tufkin, two wolf cubs who are not very patient with each other.

Tufkin was very keen on football and wanted to tell his brother all about it. “I’ve got a new football album with all the teams in, and stickers as well, do you want to have a look?”

“I’m not interested in that,” said Rufkin “but I’ll tell you what I do like – ROCKETS! And I’m working on my new model gluing all the pieces on - it’s so much fun and you can help me!”

“As I was saying,” Tufkin continued “I know all the teams and their players and I’m going to make a poster to support my favourite club.”

“Blah, blah, blah! Aren’t you listening to me?” Rufkin growled “Rockets are much more important than your silly football teams!”

“No they are not!” Tufkin yelled “Take that back!”

Just at that moment Jack walked by and could see that the brothers were very annoyed with each other. “Why don’t you try the pencil of patience?” he said.

“How is that going to help?” Tufkin grumbled. “He just needs to listen to what I am saying about football!”

“Well, you both need to listen to each other” Jack said, “and it’s easier to do that if you take turns. Whoever holds the pencil of patience can speak about their favourite subject for one minute while the other person listens, then they hand it over and then it’s their turn to listen patiently. Here Tufkin, you go first, I’m keen to learn all about your new football album but I’m also interested in rockets and I’ll be listening to both of you.”

Tufkin started by holding up the pages of his book and showing the list of teams and the spaces where the stickers went. Soon his minute was over and Jack passed the pencil to his brother, who immediately started talking about his model and how long it would take to finish it. His minute passed quickly too.



“Well done for practising patience! How did that feel boys?” said Jack.

“Can we talk for longer?” said both boys at almost the same time.

“OK,” said Jack. “This time you can talk for two minutes, but that also means that you will have to listen for two minutes as well. Can you practise patience while you are waiting?”

“We’ll try...” both cubs growled.

How would Jack know if the brothers were being patient? What does someone look like when they are listening patiently?

Explain to the class that in the following week’s session you will ask them to talk about a subject that really interests them. Explain to the children that they will have a partner to talk to and just like Rufkin and Tufkin they will use a pencil of patience to help them wait for their turn to speak.

