

GROWING IN THE COMMUNITY

SESSION B



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Children will use basic gardening tools to plant the donations received from parents and the local community. Children will write a guide to looking after the garden, explaining why this is an important service for the local community. Children will record their work by taking photographs that will later be used to celebrate their community garden with the school.

Suggested Resources:

Donated plants; basic gardening tools (enough for small groups of approximately 10 children); watering can; sticky labels; gardening stakes; pencils; and cameras (3-5).

This lesson will take place outdoors in the garden (either at the school or in a public space).

Script:

Gather the children around the gardening plot they will be developing in the lesson. Recap the importance of maintaining beautiful spaces for the local community. How are they used? Why should we keep them beautiful? Explain that small groups of children will take it in turns to complete three activities that will help them to create a beautiful garden for the local community. Remind children about the virtues they will need to work well in groups – what do they need to remember (co-operation, flexibility etc.)? Explain to children that they may see groups of Year 2 children doing similar activities. They can watch and learn from how they are improving the garden.

Suggested Activities

1: Planting

In pairs, children should be given a small plant and a trowel. Ensure children know where they need to

plant their flower and model digging a hole for the plant, bedding it in and watering it. Now it is their turn. Remember to praise children for their act of service no matter how small.

2: Garden Guide

Give each child an A5 piece of lined paper, clipboard and pencil. Children can write a guide to looking after the garden that can be given to a local parks person or the school's caretaker. Children should explain why they want the garden to be taken care of in the future. Give children Character Coaching feedback on their work - 'This guide will be of great service to the caretaker' etc..

3: Recording Their Community Work

In pairs or small groups, children can record the work of their peers by taking photographs of their planting. Encourage children to take a range of photographs so that they can share all aspects of their work with others in the school.

Plenary:

Gather the class around the newly planted flowerbed for a group photograph, which can be added to a scrapbook of their own photographs. What difference do they think their service will make to the lives of people in the local community? Generate a discussion of ideas about how the school can keep the garden looking fresh and beautiful.



Character Coaching

Meaningful Praise:

I like the way you have *served* the community by planting your flowers in such a beautiful way.
The guide you have written will be of great *service* to the caretaker.

