

GROWING IN THE COMMUNITY

SESSION A



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Children will learn about the use of public gardens and why it is an important service to maintain these spaces. Children will write a class letter to a local gardening company asking for donations of plants/flowers to plant in their garden as a service to the local community.

Suggested Resources:

Photographs of a local public garden.

Script:

Explain to the children that in this lesson and next week they will be thinking a lot about gardens in the local community and why they are an important service to people who live in the area. Show the children photographs of local gardens and parks. Have they been there? What did they do there? Did they enjoy their time there? Who else uses this space? What can we do to make their time even more enjoyable? Steer children towards a discussion about choosing an undeveloped or empty flowerbed and planting flowers to make the garden beautiful.

Suggested Activities:

Explain to the children that Reception and Year 1 are creating posters to advertise for plant donations that will be used in the community garden. Who else might be able to help us to be of *service*? What could we do to ask them to help us? Steer children towards a discussion about asking a local gardening shop (for example B&Q, Homebase or an independent shop) for a donation of some plants for their community garden.

Character Coaching

Meaningful Praise:

Well done, your letter will let the gardening shop know that it has been of service to you and the local community.

All together:

Explain to children that in the remainder of the lesson they will be writing a class letter to this shop to ask them for a donation. What important information must they include in the letter? In addition to practical details, for example when they need the plants by, focus on the purpose of the *service*-based nature of the project and its goal. Draft the letter on the whiteboard as a class, ensuring that all children have an opportunity to input their ideas. Remind children how to begin a letter and that it must be written in a very kind way and show gratefulness for any donations.

It may be easier to split the class in two to produce two letters – one led by the teacher and the other by a member of the support staff.

Plenary:

Have a discussion about what the class could do to show their appreciation for the generosity and spirit of service shown by the local gardening shops who donated plants and flowers.

Correction:

The gardening shop will only want to donate their plants if they know that it is to be of service to the local community. Make sure your letter mentions this important virtue.