

Paths Lesson 17 - Best Friends

Objectives:

- To introduce the concept of a 'friend'
- To introduce the concept of competition and co-operation

This story is about two girls but it could be about two boys.

Mary and Suzi were the best of friends. They liked to talk, tell jokes and enjoy each other's company. Best of all, they really liked to play together. Mary and Suzi sat next to each other at lunch-time every day. Sometimes they would go to each others' houses to eat dinner or even spend the night. They had some really special times together.

Mary and Suzi felt really happy when they found out that they were both going to be in the same class at school. That is, they had been very

happy about being in the same class until one day, when something happened.

You see, Mary and Suzi knew that they would both be in Mrs Johnson's room. Mrs Johnson was known as a great teacher. She was fair and helped her pupils make good choices. On the first day of school they asked Mrs Johnson if they could sit next to each other. Mrs Johnson asked them if they thought this was a good choice and they said "Yes." So, Mary and Suzi got to sit right next to each other! They couldn't believe their luck.

Task 1:
What is a friend?
Create a mind map of your ideas.



One day, Mrs Johnson told the class that she would be holding auditions for a class play. It would be a funny play about a family going on a holiday. Mrs Johnson had been an actress once, so she knew all about plays and auditions and such things.

Mrs Johnson told the class that auditions were held so that everyone could have a chance to compete for the part that they wanted in the play. She said that the competition would help them choose the very best person for each part. Mrs Johnson also said that the competition was much better than having everyone fighting over who would get to be in the play and that competition was fair to everyone. Mary and Suzi didn't really understand what 'compete' or 'competition' meant, but the whole idea sounded exciting to them.

Mrs Johnson said that anyone who wanted to be in the play could choose a part and act it out in front of the class.

That would be the audition. Then the class would vote for who they thought was the best for each part. She told the class that they should rehearse for the audition.

Mary and Suzi were really excited now. They couldn't wait to start practising. Mary asked her dad if she could go to Suzi's house so that they could rehearse together. Her dad said that would be fine, as long as she came home in time for her dinner.

After school, Mary and Suzi rehearsed their parts for the play. While they practised, they enjoyed giving each other suggestions on how to play the parts. Mary and Suzi were co-operating with each other and having a lot of fun.

As I already told you, Mary and Suzi were rehearsing, co-operating and having fun. However, there was a problem: Mary and Suzi were practising for the same part.

They would be competing. Unfortunately, they hadn't stopped to think about that. Mary and Suzi didn't realise that they had a problem until it was too late.

Questions

1. Why do you think competing for the same part in the play might be a problem for Mary and Suzi?
2. The story told us that Mary and Suzi did not really understand what competition means. What does it mean?

3. Our story told us that Mary and Suzi were co-operating while they practised for the play. Do you know what co-operating means?

4. Sometimes activities can involve co-operation and competition at the same time.

Can you think of an example of a time when something needs both?

Task 2:

Complete the Friendship worksheet.