

LESSON PLAN 3

Early Years
The Importance of Working
Together

Lesson Plan 3.0: Early Years

The Importance of Working Together

Lesson Title	The Importance of Working Together - Wishing Tree
Lesson Summary	Students will be introduced to working collaboratively and how small acts of kindness can have a big impact, and how we can support each other in the community. The session will introduce the concept of working together and its role in overcoming challenges, drawing inspiration from Make-A-Wish Australia's work in granting life changing wishes to children with critical illnesses.
Year Level	This lesson is for Early Years: Kinder, Prep and ELC
Lesson Duration	40-45 minutes
Learning Intention	Students will learn how their actions can make a positive impact on others and learn how they can work together towards a shared goal.
Evidence of Learning	By the end of the lesson, students will be able to: • Understand that everyone's contribution matters when working as a team • Participate in thoughtfully decorating their leaf • Understand why kindness is important
Things you will need	• Make-A-Wish story (video) Adam's 'DIG IT' Wish  • Digital device to play the Make-A-Wish video (optional). • Large sheets of paper or card. • Markers, crayons, coloured pencils, and stickers for creative design • Reflection worksheet (prompts for reflection on their experience and emotions) • Soft toy/object
Teacher Preparation Notes	• Review the Make-A-Wish video or story Adam's 'DIG IT' Wish  • Print off Wishing tree leaf templates • Ensure craft materials are ready and organised for the activity • Allow students to share their leaf but ensure that sharing is optional to maintain a safe and respectful environment. • Draw a trunk of a tree on A3/A2 paper for the leaves the students will decorate • Teachers should adapt this lesson to meet the diverse needs of students, including those with varying abilities and those with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

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The Importance of Working Together – Scripted

Introduction & Icebreaker (15 minutes)

“Hello everyone! Today we’re going to learn about something very special, how we can work together to create something big and beautiful.”

“Each of us has our own special dreams and wishes. Some might be big, some might be small, and all of them are important because they are part of who we are.”

“But when we bring our wishes together, just like a puzzle, we can create something even more amazing than we could on our own.”

“Who likes helping their friends?” **(pause for responses)**

“That’s wonderful! Helping each other is one of the ways we make something special together.”

Icebreaker

“We are now going to see how we can help each other, because we are a team!”

“Everyone gather in a circle **(seated or standing)** we’re going to pass this soft toy from one end of the circle to the other, and then back to me.”

“It can be passed any way you like, as long as it’s safe. You can pass it slowly, quickly, carefully, or even a little bit silly!”

(Encourage the students to pass the toy around the circle)

“Amazing! Look at that, we all worked together and made sure everyone had a turn. That’s what teamwork looks like.”

Introducing Make-A-Wish

(Read the wish story, or play the video once reviewed for suitability: [Adam's 'DIG IT' Wish](#) )

“Now I want to tell you about something very special. There is an organisation called Make-A-Wish Australia.”



“They help kids who are going through really hard times by making their wishes come true! Every wish is different, just like each of you. One child might wish for a puppy, another might wish for a holiday.”

“And what’s really special is that lots of people work together to make each wish come true.”

“Let me tell you about Adam. His wish was to visit Thunderbird Park, where he got to drive big machines and dig in the mud with a digger! He also got to go camping with his family.”

Play video if suitable: [Adam's 'DIG IT' Wish](#) 

“Does anyone else like camping?” **(pause for responses)**

“That’s great, me too! We usually see lots of trees when camping which brings us to our fun activity!”

Link to activity:

“Today, we’re going to create something together that shows all our different wishes in one place. We are going to make a **Wishing Tree**.”

(Use hand gestures to help demonstrate) “Every part of the tree works together. The roots hold it steady, the branches reach out, and the leaves make it full and beautiful.”

“Each of you will decorate and colour your own leaf. Each leaf is going to be different, but added together they make one whole, beautiful tree.”

“So, just like Make-A-Wish needs lots of people working together to bring wishes to life, we also work together in our classroom.”

“Why do you think helping someone is important?” **(pause for responses, encourage answers of kindness)**

“Yes, helping makes people feel happy, safe, and supported.”

“We can help someone tie their shoes, put on their coat, or even help them feel included.”

“Our tree will be a reflection of all our unique dreams and wishes, coming together to create something special as a class.”

Activity: Wishing Tree (20 minutes)

(Hand out leaf templates to the students, either precut the leaves before the lesson, or after)

Instructions

- Hand out wishing tree worksheet with leaf for students to decorate.
- Make crayons, glitter glue, coloured pencils or paints available.
- You can either have groups of students stick their leaves together on a large piece of paper, or stick all the leaves together on a notice board to see how all the elements of the tree come together.

"Today, each of you is going to colour and decorate your own leaf."

"You can use colours, patterns, shapes, anything you like to make it special, just like your own dreams and wishes."

"Your leaf is important, because when we add it to the tree, it helps make a whole big tree."

(Students decorate, help as needed)

"Wow, these are amazing! Let's all hold our leaf up to show everyone."

"Great. Now let's bring them together, could everyone place their leaf onto the table."

(arrange the leaves on the table or onto the drawn tree trunk)

"Today we learned that even though we all have different dreams and wishes, when we come together, we can create something truly special."

"Just like our wishing tree, we are stronger and more beautiful when we support each other."

"Let's keep helping, sharing, and being kind every day."

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The Importance of Working Together - Unscripted

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Greet the students and explain that today they'll be learning about how working together can create something special and beautiful.
- Share that everyone has their own dreams and wishes, and each one is important and unique.
- Explain that when we bring our ideas and efforts together, we can make something even more amazing than we could on our own.
- Ask students if they like helping their friends (**pause for show of hands**) and affirm how wonderful that is.

Icebreaker Activity

- Introduce the activity as a way to practise teamwork and inclusion.
- Ask students to sit or stand in a circle.
- Explain that the goal is to pass a soft object around the circle and back to the teacher.
- Encourage creativity in how they pass it (slow, fast, careful, silly), while keeping it safe.

After the activity, highlight that:

- Everyone was included.
- They worked together as a team.
- Each person played an important role in completing the task.

Link to theme:

- Reinforce that when everyone helps, we can do something bigger and more special together.

Introducing Make-A-Wish

- Explain that Make-A-Wish helps children who are going through challenging times by bringing their wishes to life.
- Emphasise that:
 - Every wish is different and special, just like each of you
 - Wishes bring joy and hope

Adam's 'DIG IT' Wish :

- Introduce Adam's wish (**either by the bullet points below or the wish video**)
- Visiting Thunderbird Park.
- Driving machines and using a digger.
- Camping with his family.

Play video if suitable: Adam's 'DIG IT' Wish

- Ask students if they enjoy camping (**pause for responses**)

Link to activity:

- Explain that many people work together at Make-A-Wish to make each wish come true.
- Connect this to the classroom:
 - Students also work together and help one another.
Ask why helping others is important (**pause for responses**)

Give examples of helpful behaviours

- Tying shoes
- Helping with coats
- Supporting friends with activities

Introduce the key learning concept:

- Explain that today they will create a Wishing Tree.

- Each student will make a leaf that represents their own thinking, the things that make them special, or wishes
- Just like real trees: Roots, trunk, branches, and leaves all work together

Explain that:

- Each leaf is different
- But when combined, they create one big, beautiful tree

Reinforce learning activity:

- “Our tree will show how all our unique wishes and ideas can come together to create something special as a class.”
- Explain that if someone is struggling to put their shoes or coat on, we can help them. Or if they need help with their colouring or playing.

Activity: Making a Class Wishing Tree (25 minutes)

(Hand out leaf templates)

- Explain that each student will create their own leaf for the class tree

Reinforce learning activity:

- Their leaf represents their unique and wonderful self.
- Every leaf is important to the final tree.
- Provide materials. (crayons, pencils, paint, glitter, etc)
- Encourage creativity with colours, patterns, and designs.

Assemble the tree:

- Combine leaves on a large paper or noticeboard

Allow students to see how:

- Each unique leaf contributes to the whole



- The tree becomes more beautiful as more leaves are added

End of Activity:

- Compliment student effort and creativity.
- Invite a few students to share their leaf.

Highlight:

- Differences between leaves.
How those differences make the tree special

Wrap-Up and Reflection (5 minutes)

Congratulate students on their work and teamwork

- **Ask for responses:**
 - Did you enjoy decorating your leaf?
 - Did you enjoy working together to make the tree?
- **Reinforce the key message**
 - Everyone has unique ideas and wishes
 - When we bring them together, we create something beautiful
 - Helping each other, being a team makes our classroom a better place!
- **Final reminder and finish:**
 - “Just like our Wishing Tree, we are stronger and more beautiful when we work together and show kindness.”