

LESSON PLAN 7

Early Years
Connected Communities

Lesson Plan 7.0 – Early Years

Connected Communities

Lesson Title	Connected Communities – Kindness Rocks
Lesson Summary	This lesson helps students explore the concept of connected communities by encouraging them to give something back to their community. Students will participate in a Kindness Rocks activity, where they will paint rocks for a community garden/display. Students will be introduced to ideas of empathy and emotional understanding as they paint their rocks. Make-A-Wish is used as an example to illustrate how empathy and working together can create stronger, more connected communities.
Year Level	This lesson is for Early Years: Kinder, Prep & ELC
Lesson Duration	40-50 minutes
Learning Intention	• Learn about the importance of kindness and community care • Learn about the wishes that Make-A-Wish grants • Practice fine motor skills
Evidence of Learning	By the end of the lesson, students will be able to: • Start to understand why community care is important • Share their rock with others
Things you will need	• Make-A-Wish story or video • Video: Bryson's HUGE Emergency Services Wish! Make-A-Wish Australia - YouTube (this video is 9 minutes, so you may want to skip to 2:38) • Digital device to play the Make-A-Wish video (optional) • Reflection worksheets • Smooth rocks • Paint, markers, decorating materials • Paper towels & cleaning supplies
Teacher Preparation Notes	• Review the Make-A-Wish video or story to highlight key moments • Review Make-A-Wish video for sensitive content (a story version is written) • Print off activity templates. • Write the success criteria and learning intention on the board before the lesson begins. • Ensure craft materials are ready and organised for the activity. • Allow students to share their rocks, but ensure that sharing is optional to maintain a safe and respectful environment. • 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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Connected Communities - Scripted

Introduction & Icebreaker (10-12 minutes)

"Good morning/afternoon! Today we're going to learn about community, what it means and how we can be kind to people in our community."

"Have you heard the word community before?" (pause, take a few responses)

"A community is a group of people who live, learn or play together and help take care of each other. Our school is a community, your home is a community, your sports club is a community, and people can also be part of communities through their religion or beliefs."

Icebreaker

"Let's draw our community!" (draw a large circle on the board, write 'Our Community' in the middle)

"Who is in our community at school? Who are the people you see here?" (pause, take a few responses and write them inside the circle)

Guide students to the below answers:

- Other students
- Teachers
- Learning support staff or assistants
- Admin/management/office staff
- Cooks/Kitchen staff (if applicable)
- Maintenance/cleaning staff

"Great answers, everyone!"

Introducing Make-A-Wish Australia

"Now I want to tell you about Make-A-Wish Australia. Make-A-Wish grants wishes to children with critical illnesses. Each wish is unique; some kids wish for a puppy and others wish to become a



superhero for a day. Imagination and joy are a big part of their wishes, and today I'd like to show you Bryson's Wish. I want you to remember that each wish is led by the child—it starts with their imagination."

"I'd love to tell you about Bryson. Bryson wanted to have a big emergency services adventure."

"The police are his absolute favourite, so he was thrilled when he was given a mission to save the keys to the city, as someone had stolen them."

"Bryson was given a uniform and had special training to work alongside the police to find the criminal. Bryson went up into the sky in a cool helicopter where he was told to look for a man wearing a striped t-shirt and a yellow hat. Bryson then saw him on a boat trying to escape!"

"After they landed, Bryson and the team went on a police boat to capture the suspect. The suspect ran out of petrol and had to paddle the boat to shore, meaning Bryson and the team could capture him near the Sydney Opera House!"

"Bryson arrested the man and found the key in the man's pocket. Everyone cheered and clapped, and Bryson was so happy."

Show the video clip Bryson's Wish*: [Bryson's HUGE Emergency Services Wish! | Make-A-Wish Australia - YouTube](#)

(Note: video is 9 minutes long, so you may want to skip to 2:38)

"Bryson saved the day and helped the community with his courage and bravery. I want us to use Bryson's wish as a reminder that we can work together in our community to have a kind classroom."

Activity: Craft (20 mins)

"Who likes being kind?" **(pause for response)**

"Exactly, *kindness rocks*, so today we're going to make kindness rocks for a community garden! You will each paint a rock that reminds you of something kind."

"You can paint or draw anything you like on the rock to remind you to be kind."

Some examples:



- kind words
- bright colours
- hearts
- smiley faces
- stars

“We will then hide them around the school, outdoor play area or local park. This is a way that we can brighten someone’s day or help make our shared spaces at school brighter and happier.”

(Hand out rocks, paint, textas, etc., and help as needed)

Wrap-Up and Reflection (5 minutes)

“Okay, great job everyone! Who feels comfortable sharing their rock with the class?”

“Amazing work! They all look fantastic.”

(Encourage the students to hide their rocks for others to find, placing them around the school or at their local park)

“How did you feel painting your *kindness* rock?” (pause, take a few responses)

“What do you think people will feel when they see the rocks?” (pause, select a few students to answer)

Remind students that Make-A-Wish helps people and that each wish can have a similar impact on others' happiness, as the Wish Force (people who work in the Make-A-Wish community) works together to make wishes come true for others.

“Well done for your kindness and creativity today! Let’s continue to think about how we can be kind to each other in the classroom.”

Additional Activity Ideas

1. Cards for Caring

- **Project Idea:** Create handmade cards for another class or students
- **Who It Helps:** Other children who might be feeling lonely.
- **How It Makes a Difference:** A colourful, handmade card can bring joy and comfort, showing them that someone is thinking of them.

- **Thought Starter:** “How would you feel if you received a surprise card when you were feeling sad?”

2. Host a School Clean Up Day

- **Project Idea:** Organise a school play area clean-up to make a shared space more beautiful and safer.
- **Who It Helps:** Everyone in the community who uses the park or playground.
- **How It Makes a Difference:** A cleaner space makes the area safer for children to play and nicer for families to visit.
- **Thought Starter:** “What’s your favourite part of the park? How would you feel if it was cleaner and safer?”

3. Host a Bake Sale for a Cause

- **Project Idea:** Organise a bake sale to raise funds for Make-A-Wish. Register to fundraise on the Make-A-Wish website. For some fun recipes, check out www.bakeawish.org.au.
- **Who It Helps:** A specific charity or local cause that the students care about.
- **How It Makes a Difference:** Provides needed funds to support a cause that helps others.
- **Thought Starter:** “What’s your favourite treat to bake? How would you feel if that treat helped someone in need?”

4. Helping Hands Project

- **Project Idea:** Create a “Helping Hands” mural or bulletin board in the classroom where each student commits to one act of kindness (like helping a friend or sharing a toy).
- **Who It Helps:** Classmates and the school community.
- **How It Makes a Difference:** Encourages kindness and creates a visual reminder of everyone’s good deeds.
- **Thought Starter:** “What’s one nice thing you could do for a friend at school? How would that make them feel?”

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Connected Communities - Unscripted

Introduction & Icebreaker (10-12 minutes)

- Introduce the students to the lesson and let them know they will be learning about community
- Introduce the lesson theme: community and kindness
- Prompt prior knowledge by asking if students have heard the word community
- Share and explain the definition
- Give relatable examples (kinder/school, home, neighbourhood, religious buildings, community centres)

Icebreaker

- Draw a large circle labelled “Our Community”
- Ask students who is part of their school community
- Record or draw responses in the circle
- Guide students to include a range of roles:
 - Students
 - Teachers
 - Assistants
 - Admin/management
 - Kitchen staff (if relevant)
 - Cleaning/maintenance staff

Introduction to Make-A-Wish Australia

- Introduce Make-A-Wish Australia.
- Explain that Make-A-Wish helps children who are sick and need extra happiness. They grant special wishes to make kids smile.
- Explain that each wish is different, and some kids wish for a puppy, or a trip to the beach, or to meet their favourite character.
- Introduce Bryson and his emergency services wish:
[Bryson's HUGE Emergency Services Wish! | Make-A-Wish Australia - YouTube](#)
- **Story:** Bryson wanted an emergency services wish, and the police are his favourite

- He was thrilled when he was given a mission to save the keys to the city, as someone had stolen them.
- Bryson was given a uniform and had special training to work alongside the police to find the criminal.
- Bryson went up into the sky in a cool helicopter where he was told to look for a man wearing a striped t-shirt and a yellow hat.
- Bryson then saw him on a boat trying to escape!
- After they landed, Bryson and the team went on a police boat to capture the suspect.
- The suspect ran out of petrol and had to paddle the boat to shore, meaning Bryson and the team could capture him near the Sydney Opera House!
- Bryson arrested the man and found the key in the man's pocket. Everyone cheered and clapped, and Bryson was so happy.
- Wrap-up: Reflect on the Wish story and highlight the lesson theme of *community*

Activity: Craft (20 minutes)

- Introduce the idea of spreading kindness through art
- Students will decorate a rock to represent kindness (because *kindness rocks!*)
- Let the students know this will be used to create a rock garden for the kinder/school community
- Students may include:
 - Bright colours
 - Hearts
 - Smiley faces
 - Stars
- Encourage:
 - Creativity and personal choice
 - No "right" or "wrong" designs

(Distribute materials and support students as needed)

Wrap-Up & Reflection (10 minutes)

- Invite students to share their rocks
 - Select a few students to present to the class
- Encourage positive feedback
- Celebrate student effort

- Reinforce learning intention of community and making their community a kinder place

Additional Community Project Ideas

1. Cards for Caring

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- **Who It Helps:** Other children who might be feeling lonely.
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- **Thought Starter:** “How would you feel if you received a surprise card when you were feeling sad?”

2. Clean-Up Day

- **Project Idea:** Organise a school play area clean-up to make a shared space more beautiful and safer.
- **Who It Helps:** Everyone in the community who uses the park or playground.
- **How It Makes a Difference:** A cleaner space makes the area safer for children to play and nicer for families to visit.
- **Thought Starter:** “What’s your favourite part of the park? How would you feel if it was cleaner and safer?”

3. Bake Sale for a Cause

- **Project Idea:** Organise a bake sale to raise funds for Make-A-Wish. Register to fundraise on the Make-A-Wish website. For some fun recipes and more information, check out: bakeawish.org.au
- **Who It Helps:** Critically ill children and their families in their local community and all around Australia
- **How It Makes a Difference:** Makes more wishes come true for sick kids
- **Thought Starter:** “What’s your favourite treat to bake? How would you feel if that treat helped someone in need?”

4. Helping Hands Project



- **Project Idea:** Create a “Helping Hands” mural or bulletin board in the classroom where each student commits to one act of kindness (like helping a friend or sharing a toy).
- **Who It Helps:** Classmates and the school community.
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