



LESSON PLAN 7

Grade 3-4
Connected Communities



Lesson Plan 7.2: Grade 3-4

Connected Communities

Lesson Title	Connected Communities – Community Project
Lesson Summary	This lesson helps students explore the concept of connected communities by encouraging them to design their own community project. Students will be introduced to ideas of empathy, emotional understanding and creative problem-solving skills as they plan and deliver their project ideas. 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 Grades 3–4.
Lesson Duration	60 minutes
Learning Intention	• Learn how we can contribute to our communities through creative community project ideas • Learn about the wishes that Make-A-Wish grants • Practice problem-solving skills
Evidence of Learning	By the end of the lesson, students will be able to: • Generate creative ideas for a community project and explain how their project helps others and describe the emotional impact. • Reflect on their own feelings and the potential emotions of those they help. • Work collaboratively with classmates, sharing and building on each other's ideas.
Assessment Criteria	• Participation: Students actively contribute to discussions, brainstorming, and group work. • Creativity: Students generate unique and thoughtful community project ideas. • Reflection: Students start to understand the power of community and kindness. • Empathy and Reflection: Students demonstrate understanding of emotions (their own and others') through reflection sheets and discussions.
Things you will need	• Make-A-Wish story or video • Video: Bryson's HUGE Emergency Services Wish! Make-A-Wish Australia • (This video is 9 minutes, so you may want to skip to 2:38.) • Digital device to play the Make-A-Wish video (optional) • Large sheets of paper or poster boards for project posters • Markers, crayons, coloured pencils, and stickers for creative design • Reflection worksheets • Whiteboard • Materials based on the chosen activity

**Teacher
Preparation
Notes**

- Review the Make-A-Wish video or story to highlight key moments [Bryson's HUGE Emergency Services Wish! | Make-A-Wish Australia](#) **(This video is 9 minutes, so you may want to skip to 2:38.)**
- Review Make-A-Wish video for sensitive content
- Print 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 project ideas, 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 (15 minutes)

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

"Who can tell me what community means?" **(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 sports club is a community, and people can also be part of communities through their religion or beliefs."

"Our home life is also part of a community, which might include your family, carers, or the people you live with."

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 answers below:

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

Discussion prompts:

- "Who helps keep the school running smoothly?"
- "Who supports us behind the scenes?"



“Great answers, everyone! Every one of those people plays an important role in helping our school community function and feel safe and supported.”

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."

Bryson's video: [Bryson's HUGE Emergency Services Wish! | Make-A-Wish Australia](#)
(This video is 9 minutes, so you may want to skip to 2:38.)

"Bryson and the NSW Police worked together to help save the keys to the city. How good is that! I want us to use Bryson's wish as a reminder that we can help each other in the classroom."

"Helping others doesn't just make us feel good, it helps create stronger, happier communities. You all have the power to make a difference in your own community, just like in the video we watched. The goal today is to start thinking about ways we can help the people around us."

Activity: Project Exploration (15 mins)

"Now let's put our thinking caps on, as today we're going to design a community project about how we can contribute to our communities."

"We're going to divide into groups and come up with a few ideas. Please use the sticky notes to write down your ideas."

"Here are some examples and things to think about when exploring your project idea:

- Helping younger students at playtime
- Creating a community garden in the school
- Tree planting at school
- Supporting new students
- Reading buddies

"You can think about what is important to us at school:

- A kind environment
- A clean environment
- Helping each other during lessons
- Empathy and kindness

(Get students into groups and help them with ideas and prompts as needed.)

Thought starters if needed:

1. Cards for Caring

- **Project Idea:** Create handmade cards for another class or students
- **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.
- **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 a local charity like Make-A-Wish (Bake A Wish). Register via the fundraising page on the Make-A-Wish website.
- **Thought Starter:** "What's your favourite treat to bake? How would you feel if that treat helped someone in need?"

Group Sharing (2-3 mins)

"Okay class, now we're going to share our ideas with the class. Please stick your ideas on the board."

(Read a few examples to encourage further discussion.)

"Great work. Now let's go back to our groups and work together on a plan for how you would bring this project to life."

Activity: Project Planning & Creativity (20 minutes)

Provide each student with a Project Planning Worksheet

"Now that you've brainstormed your ideas, it's time to design your very own community project! I'm going to give each of you a Project Planning Worksheet. You'll need to choose your favourite idea from the brainstorming session and fill out the worksheet. This will help you think through your project in detail."

"You can draw, sketch, or write out your ideas."

Write prompts on the board and say them out loud:

- Who do you want to help with your project?
- What will your project look like?
- How do you think it will make people feel?
- What materials do you need?
- Will you need help from other people?

(Encourage creativity)

"Amazing work, everyone. It's great to see everyone thinking about how our actions impact others, and how we can make our school community a kinder place!"

Wrap-Up and Reflection (5-8 Minutes)

Reflection worksheet

(Hand out worksheets and ask the students to answer the following prompts.)

"Before we pack up, we're going to answer the following questions on our reflection worksheet."

1. Which ideas do you think would make the biggest difference?
2. How did you feel exploring the ideas for your project?
3. What things/resources or help might we need to make these ideas happen?

(Leave a few minutes for students to write their responses.)

"Well done for your kindness and creativity today! Remember that Make-A-Wish works together to



help make wishes happen, which has a huge impact on the lives of others. We can also have a similar impact through how we work together and help each other.”

“Next time we’ll work on posters for our projects and develop them together!”

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The Power of Imagination - Unscripted

Introduction & Icebreaker (15 minutes)

- Introduce the topic of community and explain that the lesson will focus on what a community is and how students can help make their community stronger.
- Ask students what they think “community” means and allow a few responses.
- Explain that a community is a group of people connected by shared interests or where they live, and that communities support and look after one another.
- Discuss how communities can exist in many places, including school, sports or religious groups, and home life, which may include family, carers, or the people they live with.

Icebreaker

- Draw a large circle on the board and label it “Our Community.”
- Ask students who makes up the school community and record their answers inside the circle.
- Encourage broader thinking by prompting students to consider different roles in the school, such as:
 - students
 - teachers
 - support staff
 - office staff or leadership
 - canteen/kitchen staff
 - cleaners and maintenance staff
- Use guiding questions if needed, such as who helps the school run smoothly or who supports students behind the scenes.

- Acknowledge responses and reinforce that all these roles are important in making the school community safe, supportive, and positive.
- Reinforce the idea that helping others strengthens communities and contributes to a happier environment. Highlight that students can make a difference in their own community.

Introducing 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; some kids wish for a puppy, 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.
- Connect the video back to the lesson intention of community and working together.

Activity: Project Exploration (15 mins)

- Introduce the idea that students will begin designing their own community project.
- Divide students into small groups and provide sticky notes for brainstorming ideas.
- Encourage them to think about ways they could contribute to their school community.
- Provide examples if needed, such as:

- helping younger students
- creating a community garden
- planting trees
- supporting new students
- reading buddy programs
- Prompt them to think about what matters at school, like kindness, cleanliness, helping others, and empathy.
- Move around the room to support groups and prompt thinking as needed.

Optional Thought Starters

If groups need additional support, suggest ideas such as:

- making cards for others
- organising a clean-up day
- running a small fundraiser for a cause

Use reflective prompts to deepen thinking (e.g. how these actions would make others feel).

Group Sharing (2-3 mins)

- Bring the class back together and have groups place their ideas on the board.
- Read through a selection of ideas and acknowledge the effort and creativity shown.
- Ask groups to begin thinking about how they could turn one of their ideas into a real project.

Activity: Project Planning & Creativity (20 minutes)

Provide each student with a project planning worksheet.

Ask them to choose one idea and develop it further by drawing or writing their plan.

Display prompts on the board:



- Who will the project help?
- What will the project look like?
- How will people feel?
- What materials are needed?
- Who could help make it happen?

Encourage creativity and thoughtful responses while supporting students as they work.

Acknowledge effort and reinforce the importance of thinking about how their actions impact others.

Wrap-Up and Reflection (5 mins)

Hand out reflection worksheets and ask students to write answers to the questions below:

- Which ideas would make the biggest difference?
- How did you feel exploring your project ideas?
- What resources or support might be needed?

Allow time for students to reflect on the lesson.

- Recognise students for their kindness, effort, and creativity.
- Reinforce that working together to help others—like organisations such as Make-A-Wish—can have a meaningful impact.
- Let students know that the next step will be creating posters and continuing to develop their projects together.