

LESSON PLAN 3

Grade 3-4
The Importance of Working
Together

Lesson Plan 3.2 - Grade 3-4

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 the Make-A-Wish Australia's work in granting life changing wishes to children with critical illnesses. Students will develop empathy, emotional understanding and learn about interconnectedness and the power of collective care
Year Level	This lesson is for Grade 3-4
Lesson Duration	50-60 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 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)
Teacher Preparation Notes	• Review the Make-A-Wish video 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)

Introduce the students to the lesson themes - understanding the power of working together

"Hello everyone! Today, we're going to learn about the importance of working together and towards a shared goal. We all belong to different communities, like our school, our neighbourhood, and our families."

"Each of us has our own ideas, goals, and wishes about the world, our lives, and even our classroom. These ideas might be similar or very different—but every single one of them matters."

"When we bring our individual ideas together, we can create something that is **stronger, more interesting, and more impactful** than anything we could make on our own."

"Who can share an example of a time when working together with others you helped them achieve something?" (pause for responses)

"Great answers, now we're going to do a quick activity!"

Icebreaker

"As a class, your goal is to count to 10. Only one person can speak at a time. If two people talk at once, we start again from 1."

"There's no set order, but you'll need to listen/watch each other very carefully."

"Let's also add a team signal: after someone says a number, please clap softly once to show you're finished."

"Remember, listen for the clap before you say your number. You'll need to listen and watch carefully and take turns"



"I'll start with number one – ONE. (soft clap)

(If two people speak, start again and explain there's no rush. Encourage as the activity progresses)
If the activity is successful:

"Great work everyone! We worked together and counted to 10. It may have taken time, but we listened and watched carefully, gave others a turn, which are all super important."

"Teamwork depends on communication, awareness, and making sure everyone is included."

(If the activity is not successful after a few minutes, have each student who says a number, point or lightly tap the next student)

Introducing Make-A-Wish

"I'd like to share a real-world example of teamwork making a difference."

"Make-A-Wish Australia is an organisation that grant wishes for critically ill children."

"Each wish is unique and personal. One child might wish for an experience, another for a special gift, and another to spend meaningful time with family."

"What's important is not just the wish itself, but how many people work together to make it happen."

"Let's look at Adam's dig it wish."

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

Discussion:

"How did the story make you feel?" (Wait for student responses, offering support as needed.)

"Can you see how different people worked together to make the wish happen?" ((Wait for student responses)

"Adam's mum mentioned how the Make-A-Wish staff and community worked together to create Adam's wish, which highlights how important collaboration is."



“To make Adam’s wish happen, a team of people had to collaborate, planners, volunteers, family members, and others.”

“Let’s talk about what ‘collaboration’ really is. Collaboration is when people work together to achieve something. How do we work together every day?”

(Encourage students to share their thoughts, and write them down on the board - guide the students towards small things in the classroom, tidying up, helping each other)

“In the same way, our classroom is a community where we support and contribute to each other’s experiences.”

Link to activity:

“Today, we’re going to create something together called 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.”

“Our classroom is like the tree, everyone has an important role to play.”

“Each of you will design a leaf that represents:

- A personal wish or goal
- A hope for our class or community
- Something you value or care about”

“Each leaf will be different, just like each of you.”

“But when we bring them together, they will form one tree, representing how individual contribution can work together to create something wonderful.”

“You all have the power to make a difference in our school just like in the video we watched. The goal today is to start thinking about how our classroom works together and can create something powerful and special.”

Activity: Creating the Class Wishing Tree (20 minutes)

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
- Assist as needed and provide time updates

“I’d love for your leaf to have your own creative flair, you can use the template provided or design your own!”

“Take some time to think about what matters to you.”

“What would you like to see grow, in your life, in this classroom, or in the world around you?”

“You can represent your idea through words, symbols, drawings, or patterns. Then you will need to cut the leaf/leaves out.”

“Remember, your leaf is one part of a much larger picture and each leaf is important.”

Prompts:

Think about:

Favourite colours/shapes

- Things you love – hobbies, family, pets, friends
- Your wishes for the future

I’d like you to think about:

- “What inspired your idea?”
- “Why is this important to you?”

Sharing and Building the Tree (10 minutes)

"Let's come back together."

"I'd like a few volunteers to share their leaf and explain what it represents." (select students and let them share)

"Thank you for sharing, those designs are thoughtful and important."

"Now, let's bring all the leaves together to build our Wishing Tree."

(Assemble the display together either on a flat surface)

"Take a moment to look at the tree."

"What do you notice?" (pause for responses)

"How are the leaves similar? How are they different?" (pause for responses)

"Even though all the leaves are unique, they come together to form one strong and connected tree."

"This is what a community looks like different individuals contributing to something shared."

Wrap up & Reflection (10 minutes)

"So who liked decorating their leaf today" (pause for response)

"Today we discovered how our individual wishes and ideas can come together through teamwork to create something even bigger and more beautiful."

"Let's summarise what we learnt today:"

- "Everyone has unique ideas and perspectives"
- "Every contribution adds significant value"
- "Working together creates something stronger and more meaningful"

(Pause for response)

"I'd like you to answer the following questions on your reflection worksheet." (Hand out worksheets)



1. When creating my leaf I felt..."
2. What does collaboration mean?
3. I learned that helping my classmates is important because..."

(Allow a few minutes for students to write their answers)

"I'd like you to think of one way you can work with your parent or guardian, this can be helping with the cooking, cleaning, or a project around the house."

"Just like our Wishing Tree, our class becomes stronger when we support each other, respect our differences, and work toward shared goals. Remember that all parts of the tree work together and support each other. Just like in our classroom, we want to support each other."

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The Importance of Working Together - Unscripted

Introduction and Icebreaker (15 minutes)

- Welcome the students and inform them they'll be learning about the importance of working together and towards a shared goal.
- Discuss how everyone has different ideas and wishes and that these differences are valuable.
- Explain that we all belong to different communities such as their school, a neighbourhood, and families and highlight that they all have to work together.
- Emphasise that when individuals work together, they can create something stronger, more creative, and more meaningful than working alone.
- Ask students to share examples of when teamwork has helped them succeed.
- Highlight that effective teamwork involves:
 - Listening
 - Including others
 - Respecting different ideas

Icebreaker

- Introduce the goal is to count to 10, and that only one person can speak at a time. If two people talk at once, they have to start again.
- Explain expectations – that there's no set order, but they'll need to listen very carefully to each other.
- Add a team signal, so after someone says a number, students have to clap softly to show they are finished.
- Remind students to listen for the clap before they speak. Highlight they'll need to listen and watch carefully.
- Start the activity by saying you'll start with number one – **ONE.** (soft clap)
- Support during activity as students say the numbers

- If two people speak, start again and explain there's no rush
 - Encourage as the activity progresses
- If the activity is successful congratulate the students on working together.
- Reinforce that even though it took a bit of time, they listened, watched carefully and gave others a turn.
- If the activity is not successful after a few minutes, have each student who speaks point or lightly tap the next student.

Introducing Make-A-Wish

- Introduce Make-A-Wish Australia and explain that Make-A-Wish grant life changing wishes to critically ill children and provide them with hope and joy through a wish.
- Explain that every wish is unique and that one wish child might wish for a puppy, or a holiday
- Ask the students what they would wish for. **(invite students to share responses)**
- Emphasise:
 - Each wish is unique and meaningful to kids just like them
 - Wishes provide hope, joy and life-changing memories
- Tell the students you'll be showing them Adam's 'DIG IT' wish.
- Show the short video clip "Adam's Dig it Wish" - [Adam's 'DIG IT' Wish](#) 

Discussion

- Ask how the wish story make them feel
(Wait for student responses, offering support as needed.)
- Ask if the students can see how different people worked together to make Adam's wish come true **(Encourage students to share their thoughts)**
- Highlight that Adam's mum mentioned how the Make-A-Wish staff and community worked together to create Adam's wish, which highlights how important collaboration is.
- Explain what collaboration is, and ask how they collaborate in school every day, and the positive impact that has **(Wait for responses, guiding the students towards small things in the classroom, tidying up, helping each other)**

Activity: Wishing Tree (20 minutes)

(Hand out leaf templates to the students)

Introduce the Activity:

- Students will create a Wishing Tree
- Explain that all part of the tree works together. Briefly explain all the parts (trunk, roots, branches etc)
- Each student will design a leaf that represents:
 - A personal goal or wish
 - A hope for the class, school, or wider community
 - Something they value
- Students can use the template or draw their own leaf.
- 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.
- Assist as needed

Reinforce:

- Differences and unique ideas makes the result better, bigger and more beautiful!
- Each contribution plays a meaningful role

Sharing and Building the Tree (10 minutes)

- Ask students to come back together.
- Ask a few students to share their leaf with the other students and explain what it represents.
- Congratulate them on their hard work.



- Instruct students to start assembling the tree. **(Assemble the display together either on a flat surface)**
- Ask the students to notice the differences and similarities.
- Explain that even though the leaves are unique and individual, they come together to form one strong and connected tree.
- Explain that this is what a community is.

Wrap up and Reflection (10 minutes)

- Ask the students to answer the following questions on their reflection worksheet:
 1. When creating my leaf I felt..."
 2. What does collaboration mean?
 3. I learned that helping my classmates is important because..."
 - 4.

(Give students a few minutes to write their answers)

- Encourage students to think about how they can work collaboratively outside of the classroom, either with a sibling, family member, parent, or guardian.
- End the lesson and remind the students that all parts of the tree work together and support each other. Just like how we want to support each other in the classroom.

"Just like our Wishing Tree, our class becomes stronger when we support each other, respect our differences, and work toward shared goals. Remember that all parts of the tree work together and support each other. Just like in our classroom, we want to support each other."