

Handle with care

The following activities are aimed at primary pupils. They are given as a guide and can be adapted to suit. The activities are generally more effective if classes are separated into smaller groups to allow for group discussion but if time is short the activities can be done with everyone in the class working together.

Aim

To help pupils:

- Explore and understand the concept of caring.
- Develop good relationships and respect differences between people.
- Begin to understand about the role of parents and carers and the value of family life.
- Begin to care about other people's feelings and see things from their point of view.
- Understand where individuals and families can get help and support.

Activity 1

Each group will need some flip chart paper, a dark coloured marker pen, a copy of the HANDLE WITH CARE label (see next page) and sticky labels (one for each pupil).

Pupils should be asked:

- Have you seen a label like this before and if so where?
- What does such a label tell us about the contents of a box that it might be on?
- How should we treat the contents of such a box?

Look for responses that indicate fragility of contents, the need for gentle handling, the need to protect contents etc.

Pupils should then be asked:

- Who would read the label and be expected to act on it?

Look for responses that include postal workers, delivery people, family members receiving the parcel etc.

Finish by indicating that the label helps us to understand the need to treat the box and its contents with care to avoid damage and to help it get to its destination unharmed.

**HANDLE
WITH
CARE**

Activity 2

Ask each pupil to write 'HANDLE WITH CARE' on their sticky label and put it on. Pupils should be asked:

- Who would read it?
- Who cares for them?

Each group should then draw a heart shape in the centre of their flip chart paper and write inside 'THESE PEOPLE CARE FOR ME'.

In their groups, pupils should be asked to write around the heart shape, descriptions (not personal names), of the types of people that care for them now or have cared for them in the past (families are different and therefore not all lists will be the same).

The lists may include *parents, carers, grandparents, stepparents, boy/girl friends of mum or dad, aunts, uncles, baby sitters, health and education staff, social worker etc.* Groups should feedback responses.

A composite list can be built up on the classroom board. Emphasis should be put on the wide variety of types of people named from those with immediate and close family connections to those with a professional interest in our well-being.

Activity 3

Repeat the process but this time pupils should be asked to draw another heart on another piece of flip chart paper and write inside 'THIS IS HOW PEOPLE SHOW THEY CARE'. Pupils should think of all the ways that the people they first listed show that they care. As before, groups should feedback their responses which may include the following:

Love me, wash my clothes, feed me, buy me nice things, protect me, help me with school work, teach me, help me get stronger and better, listen to me, cuddle me, play with me, be nice to me if I am poorly, watch me play football/netball/sports, take me out, make me nice meals etc.

Group to review the responses and reflect that lots of people can care about someone in a personal or even a professional way and that they show they care in many different ways, some more personal than others.