

The Promise Tree

(Year 2 - Ages 7-8):

Lesson 6 of 9

Lesson Overview

Lesson Title:	The Promise Tree
Year Level:	Year 2 (Ages 7-8)
Lesson Duration:	30 minutes
Key Focus Areas:	Understanding empathy and the reasons for helping others.
Curriculum Links:	<p>Australian Curriculum – Health and Physical Education (Foundation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>AC9HP2P05</u>: Describe how choices and actions can be influenced by people and places.• <u>AC9E2LY02</u>: Use interaction skills including turn-taking, speaking clearly, and listening to others' ideas.• <u>AC9AVA2C01</u>: Use materials, techniques and technologies to explore art making, and represent ideas and experiences.

Learning Intentions

- Understand that making a promise is a special and important choice.
- Explore the idea that sharing a promise helps it to be fulfilled.
- Recognise that telling your family about your promise to be a donor is a crucial act of love and trust.

Success Criteria

- Describe one kind promise they would like to make.
- Explain why it is important to share a big promise with their family.
- Create a "Promise Leaf" to represent their commitment to kindness.



Teaching Sequence

Work through this lesson in the following sequence:

Duration	Part	Focus
5 minutes	Part A. What is a Promise?	Introduction, Story Time & The Promise Metaphor
10 minutes	Part B. Growing Our Promise Tree	Brainstorming & Introducing the "Promise Leaf" Activity
10 minutes	Part C. Creating Our Promise Leaves	Creative Activity & Connecting to the Big Idea
5 minutes	Part D. A Tree Full of Promises	Reflection and Sharing

Part A. What is a Promise? (5 minutes)

Step 1. Review and Introduction

- Gather students on the floor. Show them the large, bare "Promise Tree" poster.
- Say: "Hello everyone! Last time, we learned about the 'Invisible String of Kindness.' Today, we are going to talk about something that makes that string super strong: a promise. What do you think a promise is?" (Guide them to ideas like 'something you say you'll really do,' 'keeping your word').
- Say: "That's right! A promise is a special choice we make in our hearts to do something kind. We're going to make our own Promise Tree grow today."

Step 2. Story Time

- Introduce a picture book about making and keeping promises (like The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco, or a simple teacher-created story about a child who promises to help a friend).



- Say: "This story is about a very special promise that was passed down through a family. Let's see how they kept their promise strong."
- Read the story aloud, focusing on the feelings of trust, love, and commitment.

Part B. Growing Our Promise Tree (10 minutes)

Step 1. Brainstorming Kind Promises

- Say: "Our Promise Tree needs leaves to grow. Every leaf will be a kind promise. What are some kind promises we could make to our friends, our family, or even to ourselves?"
- Brainstorm a list of "kind promises" with the class. Write them on the board (e.g., "I promise to help my brother with his shoes," "I promise to listen when my friend is sad," "I promise to try my best at reading").

Step 2. Introducing the "Promise Leaf" Activity

- Distribute the "My Promise Leaf" worksheet or pre-cut leaf shapes.
- Instruct: "Your job is to create your own special leaf for our Promise Tree. On the leaf, I want you to draw or write a picture of one kind promise you would like to make. This will be your promise to help our tree grow."

Part C. Creating Our Promise Leaves (10 minutes)

Step 1. Creative Activity

- Students move to tables to design their "Promise Leaf." Encourage them to make it bright and beautiful.
- As they work, circulate and talk about the promises they are creating.
 - "Tell me about the special promise you are drawing on your leaf."
 - "That's a very kind promise to make!"

Step 2. Connecting to the Bigger Idea

- As they finish, gently introduce the connection.
- Say with a caring tone: "Your promises are so important. But for a really big, life-changing promise, it's very important to share it with the people who love you most—your family."
- Continue with a sense of wonder: "The promise to help someone by being an organ donor is one of the biggest and kindest promises anyone can make. Because it is so special, the most important part is sharing that promise with your family. When your family knows about your kind promise, they can help make sure your wish comes true. It's like telling them the secret that makes the promise magical and strong."

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Part D. A Tree Full of Promises (5 minutes)

Step 1. Filling the Promise Tree

- Say: "Now, let's make our tree grow with all of these beautiful promises. When it's your turn, I want you to come and place your leaf on a branch and tell us what your kind promise is."
- One by one, have each child come up, share their drawing, and place their "leaf" onto the tree.

Step 2. Reflection

- Admire the tree, now full of their promise leaves.
- Ask: "Our tree is now full of kind promises! How does it feel to know that making and sharing a promise can make the world a more beautiful place?"
- Say: "It's a wonderful reminder that our choices are powerful, and sharing our kind promises with our families is the best way to make them strong."

Differentiated Learning

- Extension:
 - Challenge students to write a sentence on the back of their leaf explaining why their promise is important.
 - Ask them to think about a promise their family has made to them and how it made them feel.
- Learning Support:
 - Provide a list of "promise ideas" on the board with simple pictures for students to choose from (e.g., a picture of someone sharing, someone helping with chores).
 - Use verbal prompts to help them think of a promise: "What is something kind you could promise to do at home?" or "What is a promise you could make to be a good friend?"



Teacher Reflection

- Did the "Promise Tree" metaphor effectively convey the importance of making and sharing commitments?
- Were students able to identify and create their own kind promise?
- Did the connection between sharing a promise with family and the "big promise" of donation resonate in a gentle and positive way?
- How can I use the language of "kind promises" to build a positive and responsible classroom culture?

Assessment

- Observation of participation in discussions about promises.
- Ability to identify and create a kind promise on their leaf.
- Creative expression in the "Promise Leaf" worksheet, showing a clear commitment.
- Verbal understanding that sharing a big, kind promise with family is a very important step.

Additional Notes:

Ensure the lesson keeps the concept of "a promise as a kind choice" central. The physical prop of the Promise Tree is key to making this abstract idea concrete and valuable to the students. This lesson powerfully reframes the concept of consent and family discussion into an age-appropriate, positive action: making a kind promise and sharing it with the people you love.

