

The Friendship Key

(Year 3 - Ages 8-9):

Lesson 2 of 9

Lesson Overview

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| Lesson Title: | The Friendship Key |
| Year Level: | Year 3 (Ages 8-9) |
| Lesson Duration: | 30 minutes |
| Key Focus Areas: | Understanding perspective-taking, empathy, and how to communicate effectively. |
| Curriculum Links: | <p>Australian Curriculum - Health and Physical Education (Foundation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>AC9HP4P02</u>: Analyse how behaviours and actions influence the connections and relationships people have with others.• <u>AC9HS3K07</u>: The importance of rules and laws in the community and the consequences of breaking them. (Links to group norms/values).• <u>AC9AVA4C01</u>: Use art-making skills and techniques to explore and represent ideas and experiences. |

Learning Intentions

- Understand that different people and groups value different things.
- Explore how to share an idea in a way that others will understand and appreciate.
- Recognise that understanding our family helps us share important promises like the gift of donation.

Success Criteria

- Identify something that is important to a group they belong to.
- Explain why it's good to think about others before sharing a big idea.
- Design a "Friendship Key" that represents the values of a specific group.

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Teaching Sequence

Work through this lesson in the following sequence:

| Duration | Part | Focus |
|------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 5 minutes | Part A. The Mystery Box | Introduction, Puzzle-Solving & The Key Metaphor |
| 10 minutes | Part B. Finding the Right Key | Story Time & Brainstorming Group Values |
| 10 minutes | Part C. Designing Our Friendship Keys | Creative Activity & Connecting to the Big Idea |
| 5 minutes | Part D. Unlocking Kindness | Reflection and Sharing |

Part A. The Mystery Box (5 minutes)

Step 1. Review and Introduction

- Gather students on the floor. Place the "Mystery Box" with a large lock drawn on it in the centre of the circle.
- Say: "Hello, detectives! Last time, we discovered our 'Kindness Blueprint.' Today, we have a new mission. Inside this box is a very important message about kindness, but it's locked. To open it, we need to find the right key."

Step 2. The Key Puzzle

- Hold up the different large cardboard keys (heart, soccer ball, book, etc.).
- Say: "Not every key fits every lock. It's the same with people. To unlock a good conversation and share an idea, you need the right 'Friendship Key.' You need to understand what's important to that person."
- Ask: "If we wanted to talk to a soccer team, which key do you think would work best? Why?" (The soccer ball, because they value teamwork). "What about for a family?" (The heart, because they value love).



Part B. Finding the Right Key (10 minutes)

Step 1. Story Time

- Introduce a picture book about seeing things from another's point of view, like *Hey, Little Ant* by Phillip and Hannah Hoose.
- Say: "This story is about two characters who see the world in very different ways. Let's listen carefully to see what is important to the ant, and what is important to the boy. They each have a different 'Friendship Key'."
- Read the story aloud, focusing on the different perspectives.

Step 2. Brainstorming Group Values

- Say: "Just like the boy and the ant, different groups we belong to have different things that are important to them. These are their values. Let's think about a group we all belong to: our class. What is the 'Friendship Key' for our class? What do we all care about?"
- Brainstorm a list of class values on the board (e.g., being respectful, trying our best, helping each other, having fun).

Part C. Designing Our Friendship Keys (10 minutes)

Step 1. Creative Activity

- Students move to tables. Distribute the "My Friendship Key" worksheet.
- Instruct: "Now it's your turn to be a key-maker! I want you to choose a group that you know well—it could be your family, your sports team, or your friends. Your mission is to design a special Friendship Key just for them. The shape and the pictures on the key should show what that group cares about most."
- As they work, circulate and talk about their designs.
 - "Tell me about the group you chose. What values did you put on their key?"
 - "That's a clever design! How does it show what your family cares about?"

Step 2. Connecting to the Bigger Idea

- As they are finishing, gently introduce the connection.
- Say with a caring tone: "You are all experts at designing Friendship Keys. The most important Friendship Key you will ever have is the one for your own family. You know exactly what they care about."



- Continue with a sense of wonder: "When you want to talk about a very big and important promise, like the promise to be an organ donor, using your family's Friendship Key is the best way. It means you can talk about it in a way that they will understand. You can connect it to your family's values, like 'looking after others' or 'being brave and helpful.' It unlocks the best and most loving conversations."

Part D. Unlocking Kindness (5 minutes)

Step 1. Sharing Our Keys

- Say: "Key-makers, it's time to share your creations. Turn to a partner and show them the Friendship Key you designed. Explain who it's for and what the symbols on it mean."
- Allow a few minutes for students to share their keys in pairs.

Step 2. Reflection

- Gather the class's attention.
- Ask: "We've learned that everyone has a different key. Why is it important to think about that before we talk to someone about a big idea?"
- Say: "It shows that we respect them and care about what they think. Finding the right Friendship Key is the secret to sharing kindness and understanding each other better. Well done, everyone!"

Differentiated Learning

- Extension:
 - Challenge students to write a few sentences on the back of their worksheet explaining how they would use their key to start a conversation with their chosen group.
 - Ask them to design a "master key" that they think would work for everyone in the whole school. What values would it have?
- Learning Support:
 - Provide a word bank of "values" on the board with simple pictures (e.g., a heart for love, two hands shaking for teamwork, a book for learning).
 - Work with a small group to verbally identify the values of a familiar group (like the class or a popular sports team) before they begin drawing.



Teacher Reflection

- Did the "Friendship Key" and "Mystery Box" metaphors effectively engage the students and make the concept of "audience" accessible?
- Were students able to identify the values of different groups?
- Did the connection between using a "Friendship Key" and having important family conversations feel gentle and empowering?
- How can I use the "Friendship Key" language to help students resolve conflicts and understand different perspectives in the classroom?

Assessment

- Observation of participation in the "key puzzle" and brainstorming discussions.
- Ability to identify and articulate the values of a specific group.
- Creative expression in the "Friendship Key" worksheet, showing a clear link between the design and the group's values.
- Verbal understanding that considering others' perspectives is important for communication.

Additional Notes:

The success of this lesson relies on the tangible, puzzle-solving nature of the "Friendship Key" metaphor. It transforms a complex social skill into a fun and memorable activity. This lesson provides a crucial foundation for later discussions about family conversations, framing them not as difficult tasks, but as opportunities to use a special, loving key that only they possess.

