

Our Community Web

(Year 2 - Ages 7-8):

Lesson 2 of 9

Name: _____ Class: _____

Teacher Preparation

Introduction for Teachers

This lesson builds on the concept of empathy by exploring the interconnected nature of a community. The theme for older students, "Understanding Your Audience," is adapted here to help students visualize how the different groups they belong to are linked together. The core of the lesson is the "Community Web" metaphor, which is brought to life through a memorable and physical activity using a ball of yarn.

The goal is for students to see and feel that their community is a strong, supportive network. This provides a powerful framework for understanding organ and tissue donation as an ultimate act of community care, where different, seemingly separate parts of the web (a donor family, a hospital team, a recipient family) connect to support someone in need, strengthening the entire web in the process.



Key Concepts & Language for Teachers

- **The "Community Web" Metaphor:** This is the central, physical anchor for the lesson. The yarn activity is a powerful and concrete representation of an abstract idea.
 - **The Yarn:** Represents the connections between people and groups.
 - **Each Student Holding the Yarn:** Represents a vital part of the community.
 - **The Finished Web:** Represents the strong, interconnected community.
 - **Say:** "This string is like a connection. Every time we pass it to a new group, our web gets bigger and stronger. Look how we are all connected! If one person wiggles their string, who else can feel it?" (This demonstrates interdependence).
- **Identifying Community Groups:** Move beyond just family and friends to include a wider range of community roles.
 - **Use the pre-made labels:** Family, School, Doctors & Nurses, Firefighters, Sports Team, Supermarket, Library, Neighbours, etc.
 - **Ask:** "How does our Family group connect to the Supermarket group? How does the School group connect to the Library group?" This helps them see the links.
- **Connecting to the Bigger Idea:** Frame the act of donation as a profound connection that strengthens the community web.
 - **Say with a caring and thoughtful tone:** "Our community web is strong when we help each other. Sometimes, one part of the web is in trouble because someone is very sick. The most amazing thing happens when other parts of the web connect to help. A family makes a kind choice. The doctor and nurse team uses their skills. They all work together, sending a connection across the web to help the person who is sick. This act of kindness—the gift of life—is a powerful string that makes our whole community web stronger and more caring."



Safety and Sensitivity Considerations

- **Physical Safety:** During the yarn activity, ensure there is enough space for students to stand in a circle without tripping. Set clear expectations for passing the yarn gently and not pulling on it.
- **Inclusive Community:** When discussing community groups, be mindful of students' different experiences. Not everyone may be on a sports team or have close neighbours. Use a variety of examples and ensure that the core groups of "family" and "school" are emphasized as places where everyone belongs.
- **Focus on Strength and Support:** The metaphor of the web is about strength in connection. Keep the focus on how these connections support us and make us stronger together. If a child mentions a negative community experience, acknowledge it and gently redirect.
- **Say:** "That sounds like a time a connection was broken. In our classroom web, we work hard to make sure all our connections are strong and kind."

Teacher Resources

- A large ball of yarn or string.
- Pre-made labels with names of community groups.
- A picture book about community (e.g., *The Big Umbrella* by Amy June Bates).
- A worksheet with a web-like design or a blank page for a mind map.
- Pencils, crayons, and markers.



Magical Body Facts for Year 2 (Ages 7-8)

- Your amazing heart beats over 100,000 times every single day! ❤️
- If you could spread your lungs out flat, they would be big enough to cover a tennis court! 🏐
- Your brain is more powerful and has more connections than all the computers and phones in the world put together! 🧠
- Your small intestine is so long that if you stretched it out, it would be longer than your family's car! 🚗
- It takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile — so smiling is easier! 😊
- A sneeze can travel faster than a car on the highway — over 160 km/h! Achoo! 🤧
- Your body is always making new skin. You get a whole new outer layer about every month!
- You get new taste buds every couple of weeks, which is why you might suddenly love a food you used to dislike! 🍷🍕
- Ounce for ounce, your bones are stronger than steel. 💪
- Every cell in your body contains a super-long secret code called DNA that has all the instructions to make you, YOU! 🧬

