

# Reception

## Caring Friendships

### Lesson 1

#### Learning Intention

To recognise the importance of friendships

#### Learning Outcomes

Know that friendships can make us feel happy

Know some ways that we can make new friends feel welcome

#### Resources

Elephant glove puppet or toy [https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=elephant+glove+puppet&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss](https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=elephant+glove+puppet&ref=nb_sb_noss)

[Pictures of children at school](#)

## Activities

### 1. Group Agreement

Introduce some 'circle time' rules to the class i.e. look at and listen to the person who is speaking, put your hand up to talk and to sit with your legs crossed. Introduce Ezza the elephant and explain you are going to pass Ezza around the circle to meet everyone. Practice 'circle talk' passing the elephant around the circle quietly and gently. If the person holding the Elephant wants to they can say 'Hello Ezza my name is...'

### 2. Feeling Faces

Ask the class to practice putting different feelings on their faces. Each child makes a mask by covering their face with their hands. Ask them to think of something that makes them feel happy, giving examples, e.g. a beautiful sunny day. On the count of three the group uncover their 'happy' faces. Gently shake off those faces and repeat with the feelings 'sad' and 'shy'. This helps to build a shared emotional vocabulary which can be used throughout the sessions.

### 3. Storytime – Ezza The Elephant's First Day At School

Use the puppet to tell the simple story of Ezza's first day at school. An example text is below.

- Today is Ezza the elephant's first day of school. Ezza wakes up and thinks "I have a funny feeling in my tummy."
- Ezza and mum walk to school together.
- At the gate Ezza's mum says be a good elephant, kisses Ezza and walks off towards home. Ezza watches mum go and feels lonely.
- Ezza looks at all the animals running around having fun. Feeling shy Ezza stands still and looks down at the floor.

(Ask the class to show their shy faces again).

- 'Hello' says a hippo 'My name is Heckle. Would you like to come and play in the paddling pool?' Ezza loves water and thinks this is a fantastic idea.
- Walking beside Heckle the hippo Ezza thinks 'There is no funny feeling in my tummy now!'
- Ezza smiles at Heckle and feels happy to have a new friend

Ask questions to check understanding: How did Ezza feel when mum left to go home? How did Heckle the Hippo make Ezza feel happy?

### 4. Feeling left out

Move the class to tables and give each table a couple of [Pictures of children at school](#). Ask the class to try to find the children in the pictures who look shy or lonely.

#### 5. Recap and Review

Back in a circle on the floor ask how we could welcome new people to the classroom for example:

- Smile at them
- Say hello
- Ask if they want to join a game
- Tell them our name and ask what their name is
- Ask if there is a game they like to play

#### Suggested Reading

*Strictly No Elephants*, Lisa Mantchev

*Stick and Stone*, Beth Ferry

*The Big Umbrella*, Amy June Bates