

Links with SEAL and PSHE

Lesson Aims

To celebrate Father's and men who act as father figures.

Objectives

Pupils will

- Think about what sort of person their father or father figure is and understand that all Dad's are different.
- Have fun and produce a creative image of an animal that reminds them of their Dad or father figure.
- Be more aware that some children find Father's' Day difficult because their father has died or no longer lives with the family.

Father's Day

Introduce the session by explaining to the children that they are going to think about their Dads, or Father Figure and what sort of person he is. Which words would they use to describe him? They are then going to think of an animal that reminds them of their Dad or Father Figure, eg a solid dependable elephant or a sleepy, slow sloth, or a hairy orangutan!

Without putting the spotlight on any particular child, explain that in some families there are different types of Dad, or more than one Dad, eg step dads, foster dads, uncles, and in others it might be a granddad, or other special person. Explain that there are lots of different reasons for this but in some families it is because the children's father has died. However, those children, as well as children whose father no longer lives with them, often still like to think about and remember their Dad in just the same way as everyone else on Father's Day.

Remind children that Dads are not perfect, they are human and make mistakes like the rest of us (some children may have Dads in prison or have been told that their Dads are bad people) But all Dads have something that makes them special to us.

Ask some prompt questions

- Words I would use to describe my Dad or Father Figure are.....
- When I picture my Dad or Father Figure the animal that I see is.....
- My Dad or Father Figure is special because.....

Explain that Father's day is an opportunity to remember all the reasons why their Dad or other special person is important to them and to say thank you.

Then ask the children to paint an animal that reminds them of their Dad eg if they think that their Dad is a very patient person they might paint a tortoise. If they think he is a bit fierce sometimes they might paint a tiger. If they think he is always chattering, a monkey. They can then paint or write on the image the adjectives they would use to describe him. The art can then be taken home as a thank you gift or displayed in school.

Note

For some children who do not have a biological father at home, this day can be difficult. It is for this reason that this activity has been based around fathers in the broadest sense of that role. It is perfectly OK for the children to produce a portrait of whoever they consider to be their special person or father figure. Teachers may want to start things off by talking about their own Dad or father figure and their memories of him, his strong points, his faults and funny ways ! Teachers could then model the choosing of an animal. If their own father has died or is absent, this may prove challenging but will greatly help to encourage pupils in similar circumstances to participate and feel less alone.

It is always good practice to let any child whose father has died, or a child for whom this activity may be particularly difficult, know in advance about the content of the lesson. Once forewarned they usually prefer to do the same as the rest of the class and welcome the opportunity to "flag up" to their peers that they too have a Dad, just like everyone else. If another option is requested by the child they could paint a memory of their Dad or something that reminds them of him.