

Summer Activities

“A friend in need is a friend indeed.”

— Quintus Ennius, Roman poet (239-169 B.C.)
(Foundations for Life, Elementary, Volume 1, Issue 1, #15)

Overview:

Students will imagine that they are being sent to a desert island and will be asked what six things they would take with them. They will consider how it would feel to be on a desert island and learn about messages in a bottle. They will write messages to someone significant to them in the group, and on receiving the message, that member will reply. They will learn how to give and accept a compliment and learn how to work together in a group through creating a box of “treasure talents.”

Objectives:

- Children will learn how it feels to do or start something new, and learn some ways to cope with feelings that arise
- Children will learn to manage their feelings
- They will learn how to give and accept compliments
- Children will learn to work together in a group

Materials:

- Paper, pens etc.
- A plastic bottle for each child
- A variety of cardboard boxes and junk that can be used to make things
- Stones, leaves, and other natural things that might be found on a desert island

Procedure:

1. Ask the children to shut their eyes and imagine what a desert island might be like. Share ideas to build up a picture of the group's idea of a desert island.
2. Tell the students to think of one thing they would take with them to the desert island. Begin with the stem “If I went to a desert island I would take...” Make sure every child contributes.
3. Ask the children to imagine they are being sent to a desert island. They can take six things with them. What would they take? Share those ideas.
4. Ask them how they would feel if they were on a desert island.
5. Explain that long ago before mobile phones, if people got stranded on a desert island they would sometimes write a message in a bottle. They would then have to hope that it would be found and passed on to someone who could help.
6. Give each child a plastic bottle, some paper and pens and ask them to write a message to put in the bottle.
7. Ask the children to share their messages. If they explain that their messages are secret, respect this but remind them that someone will find their bottle so they might like to think of a new message.



Summer Activities

Procedure:

8. At the end of the session, distribute the bottles to the others in the group and ask them to reply to the message.
9. Place the answers in the bottle ready for the children to find.
10. Re-distribute the bottles to the original children and provide them with some time to read the messages.
11. Explain to the children that the whole group is stuck on a desert island. Make a word picture of how they feel.
12. Explain that they will try to survive and try to find a way off the island. Use the materials and boxes to develop ideas as a group.
13. Ask the group to share one or more idea about surviving on the island. These should involve working together.
14. Build up a box of treasure talents. The children should work in pairs and share a strength or talent that they have shown during the activities. You can also share what talents and strengths you observed during the activities. Have the children draw their talent or strength on a cardboard "coin".
15. Put all the coins in a large treasure chest (decorated cardboard box).
16. Remind the children that all the talents in the box make every member of the group valuable.

