

FEELINGS INSPECTORS RESOURCE

Love

A Love-Supporting School

About this activity

The aim of this activity is to think about love in terms of our environment - the impact that our circumstances and surroundings have on how well we are able to give and receive love. It also provides children with a chance to express what they think would support them in their lives.

What do we need?

Paper
Pens/pencils
paints and any other craft materials the children may wish to use from what you have available.

Check-in

At Children's Parliament, we start every session with a check-in. Children love these short activities, and they are a vital piece of our rights-based practice. Choose a check-in using our [Feelings Inspectors Check-in Kit](#).



Instructions

Explain to the children that today they are going to design their own school – the only guide they need to follow is that it has to be a school that supports everyone to feel loved. Having introduced the idea, children might benefit from an initial group/class chat:

What kind of spaces would be needed?

What would happen in lessons?

What resources would you need?

What would the adults be like?

What would you learn?

The children, working individually, can also choose how they want to show their school – a series of sketches, a map, a model with craft materials. Try to allow each child as much freedom as possible in how they represent their ideas. While they work, the children might like to share their ideas – in this case, encourage them to ask each other questions about the decisions they've made; what they've included and why. If the children would prefer to leave the discussion until the end that's also fine.

You may find that the children are initially hesitant to go with their imaginations on this task – when we tested the activity some children initially felt like they had to stick to slight alterations on the kind of school they are familiar with. Do encourage the children to be as wild in their imagination as they like – they have an unlimited budget and can bend the laws of physics if they like!

A Love-Supporting School

On their school designs:

“

I've made a gender-neutral bathroom because not everybody feels like they're a boy or a girl

”



Which of your ideas do you think would be easy to bring into our school?
Do you think our school already does things like this?
Who could you talk to about these ideas and what you might be able to change?

If the children are enthused about taking ideas to school leadership, make sure you support them to do so.

It is especially important that you listen carefully to the children in this activity as there may be opportunities to take some of their ideas on board and create the change that they want to see.

**Useful
tip**

Make sure there is time at the end for the children to share their designs and explain what they have included and why. Ask the children the impact they think the things in their school would have on children's mental health and wellbeing.

A mindful moment

At Children's Parliament, we end every session with a mindful moment to reflect on the session and wind-down. Choose a mindful moment using our [Feelings Inspectors Mindful Moment Kit](#).