

THE GREAT GET TOGETHER

INSPIRED BY JO COX

THE GREAT GET TOGETHER: PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITY PACK

#greatgettogether #moreincommon



The Linking Network



YOUTH SPORT TRUST

PSHE Association

Introduction

The activities in this Great Get Together activity pack are designed to commemorate and celebrate Jo Cox MP, using her life and work to help young children develop their understanding of identity, diversity, community and equality.

Feel free to use and adapt the information for the assembly to suit the level of your pupils – we've included some suggestions on how you can make it more suitable for pre-school pupils below the assembly suggestions. Similarly, you can pick and mix the lesson and activity suggestions in a way that you feel is most effective for your own communities and children.

Assembly

1. Opening slide: “We have more in common than that which divides us.”

Present the assembly with examples of things we have in common e.g. get pupils to find examples of food that they and the person sat next to them like.

2. Telling Jo’s story: Key points about Jo’s life

- Jo grew up in Yorkshire and she loved learning and sports – she once won every race at a swimming competition.
- Jo worked really hard at school and loved dancing and singing. She performed routines to dances in her pyjamas at school.
- After she finished school, Jo went on to university. She found it difficult and didn’t feel like she fitted in because she spoke differently to everyone else. However, she learnt a lot and it was there that she became interested in different countries.
- After university, Jo travelled around the world visiting different places trying to help people around the world.
- In 2015, Jo got a job in the government and she became a Member of Parliament. In this job, she helped people with their problems in the town she grew up in.
- Jo worked very hard at her job as an MP but she also worked really hard to look after her two children and she tried to make sure she was always back in time to put them to bed.
- In her short time as a Member of Parliament, Jo did a lot of amazing things to help other people. She didn’t want people to be lonely or afraid.

3. Reflection question: Jo believed in looking after everybody all over the world. How can we look after other people?

4. Great Get Together: Introduce The Great Get Together and the ideas behind it

- Jo’s birthday was the 22nd June. Sadly Jo died two years ago. People who knew her and her work want to remember her by getting people together because bringing people together is something that mattered to Jo. So, the plan is to have parties all over the country called Great Get Togethers.
- Get Togethers of all different shapes and sizes are being organised, from street parties to bake-offs, football matches to village fairs and rowing races to picnics – hopefully you can be a part of the fun!
- The message behind The Great Get Together is a simple one: that we all have more in common than that which divides us. People have lots of things about them that are the same as well as lots of things that are different.

5. Video: To promote The Great Get Together

6. Reflection question: Which of the ideas we have just watched would you enjoy doing?

Adaptions for pre-school

- Use a picture book with younger children which celebrates diversity, or illustrates a friendship between characters who appear to be very different. [Letterbox Library](#), [Booktrust](#) and [Inclusive Minds](#) all have suggested book lists which you may find useful.
- The Linking Network suggests 'My World, Your World' by Melanie Walsh [ISBN 978-0- 552-55055- 0] to look at Similarities and Differences with children in Early years or Pre School.

Classroom activities

Below is a range of activities that could also be used by pre-school children to reinforce and revisit messages delivered in the assembly. The activity includes suggested timings, but these are flexible.

Changing Places game (10-15mins):

Pupils form a circle, and move into the middle when the teacher says something that they like. It's worth explaining to young children that everyone is different so everyone will go into the middle of the circle at different times:

- "Change places if you... have/are/like..."
- "Change places if you like sunny days."
- "Change places if you like oranges/apples."
- "Change places if you like playing outside."
- "Change places if you like snowy days." etc.

Teachers should aim to make sure everyone steps into the middle at some point and that they keep changing the type of question, whilst ensuring that no one is put 'on the spot' or encouraged to make an overly personal disclosure. The teacher can talk as the game progresses about things that are similar and different between the group and help the children feel comfortable with these ideas.

Creative Activities:

You could ask each child to draw something they like doing or eating, providing pictures as examples, and create a collage of things that they like to do and another of things they like to eat. This can be used as a talking point for similarities and differences.

Sport and physical activity

Sport is a fantastic way for young people to be physically active and be the best they can be irrespective of their age, gender, ability, religion and environment. The Chief Medical Officer's recommendation is 180 minutes a day for pre-school pupils. Here are some ideas from the Youth Sport Trust on activities to bring pupils together through sport:

International Inspiration (30 mins):

Use these resource cards (https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/international_inspiration_traditional_games_resources_full_set_part1.pdf) to engage pupils in traditional games from across the world, teaching them about different cultures and games and encouraging them to build communities that allow people to help and support each other to lead happier, healthier and productive lives.

National School Sport Week:

Celebrate playing and learning together by signing up for free resources (<https://www.youthsporttrust.org/national-school-sport-week>) as part of the Youth Sport Trust's National School Sport week. The resources contain lots of ideas for bringing an active element to your school's Get Together.

National School Sport Week is an initiative for all early year providers to celebrate playing and learning together. Run by children's charity the Youth Sport Trust, it provides free resources and activity ideas for your pupils to get active.