



February Theme Telling The Truth



In Cabbage's New Friend, Albert the Mouse lets Cabbage take the blame for a mess he has made. However when he realises he has caused a problem he tells the truth to Big Cabbage, who makes him tidy up, but lets him stay and play. Children learn that if you tell the truth, there may still be consequences of your actions, but telling the truth is important and positive in its own right. Try the activities below or some of your own, and check out the web links too.

Activity One: Who Has The Key?

In this activity children have to try to guess and hide the truth. This game works best in groups of 6 or more, and can also be done in a whole class or half class group.

Print off the counters on this document on to card, cut them up and fold them along the dotted lines. (Or you can use coins or blocks, all of which should be identical except for one. The different one is the Key. Or if you have a toy key, use that.)

Everyone should stand in a circle. Tell the children that it is important to try to control their face so that other people cannot guess what they are thinking. Older children can try to use their faces or body language to trick others into guessing wrongly.

Ask each child in turn to come and collect a counter somewhere in the room where the others can't see. They should check what it is and then keep it folded so no one else can see. If you use objects, make sure they are small enough to grip secretly in their hands.

One child should not have a counter. They are the Key Finder.

The Key Finder has 3 (for small groups) to 5 (for large groups) guesses as to who has the key. They should ask someone "Have you got the Key?" Whoever is asked has to show the group their counter (they have to tell the truth).

If the Key Finder does not guess correctly, the last person they picked becomes the next Key Finder until the Key is found.

Activity Two – True or False - Prove It!

This activity gets children investigating and helps them to understand that if you want to prove something is true, you have to find evidence.

The adult prepares a series of statements. The children then will investigate to find out which are true and which are false. It's a bit like a treasure hunt, except they are finding a True or False answer instead of just an object.

You can base the statements on anything you are studying in class to back up your learning. Or base them on book contents to encourage children to study books carefully. Or use the suggestions below to get you started.

Some tips - younger children will often do better with "look and find" evidence, older children will enjoy "find it out" evidence. If you can, combine some quiet investigation (looking in books, checking on a computer) with physical investigation (searching in different locations in the room or ideally in the outside areas too.). They can work alone, in pairs, or in small groups. At the end everyone should come back together and check the answers. Some examples you could use are on the next page.

Examples of some statements you could use

- The Little Red Hen Book in the bookcase has a green cover.
- The spotty cushion in the reading corner has 4 spots.
- There are eight snowdrops under the big tree.
- The red block is heavier than the blue block.
- In Cabbage's New Friend, Albert the Mouse's belly is yellow.
- There are eight planets in our solar system.

Activity Three – Learn About Me

This can also be used as an ice breaker. Each child should write down three statements (for older children) or draw / cut out and stick three pictures (for younger ones) onto cards or posters. The statements or pictures should be three pieces of information about themselves, only one of which is true. Each child then takes it in turn to read them out or show them to the rest of the group and then everyone else has to guess which one is the truth.

For small children you can have a theme to help them. For example you can write on three cards "I like eating..." and then get them to cut out one favourite food and two foods they don't like from a magazine (or draw them). Other ideas for little ones are "My family is..." (with combinations of family members), "I like playing with..." (cut out toys from catalogue), "My favourite colour is..." (using blobs of paint or pen), "I live in a..." (pasting on different types of buildings from the houses section of the local paper).

Slightly bigger children can devise three versions of the same fact and write or draw them. For example they can write "My pet is a dog / cat / hamster".

Or to stretch big kids more they can devise three totally random facts. E.g. "My aunt's name is Jane." "I ate a crayon when I was a baby" and "I love stripy toothpaste".

You can also play this game with topics - instead of Learn About Me it can be Learn About Dinosaurs / Ice Skating / Bread etc, either as a whole class topic where everyone has the same subject and this makes the guessing more skilful, or where each child or group of children pick a different topic.

The game can be used as the end product for a literacy, art or research exercise.

Useful Web Links

Tidying up game

Bobinogs Tidying up game ties in with Cabbage and Albert and the mess

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/bobinogs/games/game.shtml?7>

What makes us happy?

If you are doing the Learn About Me exercise, this online game would complement it. In it you have to use guessing and knowledge to choose the items that Charlie and Lola like.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/charlieandlola/funandgames/happy/>

Some Useful Truth Related Books

I'm Telling The Truth: A First Look at Honesty by Pat Thomas and Lesley Harker

A book aimed at 4-8 year olds about what it means to tell the truth.

The Tooth Fairy by Audrey Wood

When her brother loses a tooth, Jessica tries to fool the tooth fairy into a little extra payment.

The Boy Who Cried Wolf by Tony Ross (or various traditional versions)

Learning the consequences of dishonesty.