

Let's Look ...

CHATTING

ABOUT TEAMWORK

Chat with the children about how people grow closer together, and achieve better results, when they work as a team. Examine their own experience of teamwork by asking these or similar questions:

- Are you a member of a team?
- Is there a team spirit in your class? What words would you use to describe 'team spirit'? What makes the members of a team work well together?
- Is your class a good team? Why or why not? What things could you do to help your class work better as a team?
- Do you think there is a similarity between a team and a community? What words might you use to describe a good community?
- What kind of things connect people on a team or in a community? Are members of a community dependent on one another? Why do you think so?

GAME

HUMAN TUNNEL

- Divide the children into two teams, and ask them to form two lines.
- On the word 'go', the members of each team move their feet apart and the first player at the front of the line crawls through the tunnel of legs to the back of the line. On reaching the end of the 'tunnel', she/he stands behind the last player and calls 'tunnel'. The person at the front of the line follows.
- The winning group is the first back to its original position.

After the children have played the game, explore the concept of 'team' using these or similar questions:

- What was good about your team?
- Were you on the winning or the losing team? What did it feel like to win ... to lose?

- How well do you think your team worked together? Is there anything you could have done to improve the team's effectiveness?
- What would it be like to belong to a team where some of the members didn't co-operate?

Then dig deeper using questions such as:

- What was it like to be connected as members of the team? Did you feel a sense of dependence on one another? Did you feel a sense of responsibility for making sure your team did its task well? How did you communicate with one another?

Refer the children to page 67 of their book.

Teacher Tip:

This game could be played as part of a PE lesson.

CLASS DEBATE

OUR SCHOOL IS ONE BIG TEAM

- Begin by asking the children to name the individual teams in their school, such as sports teams, Green/Eco teams, debating teams, school choir, Parents Council, etc.
- Invite the children to explore the notion of inclusion and the importance of everyone working together toward a common goal, by asking these or similar questions:
 - » What does it feel like in a team when your contribution doesn't seem as important as someone else's?
 - » What if you disagree with an opinion that everyone else seems to have about something, or if you have different beliefs to most of the other children? Do you feel free to voice your opinions or to share your beliefs? How do you feel when your opinions or contribution are not valued or respected?
 - » There are many different teams in the school, doing lots of different things, but how might the school be just 'one big team'? What goals do all of the school teams have in common?