

Values

*A Programme
for Primary Schools*



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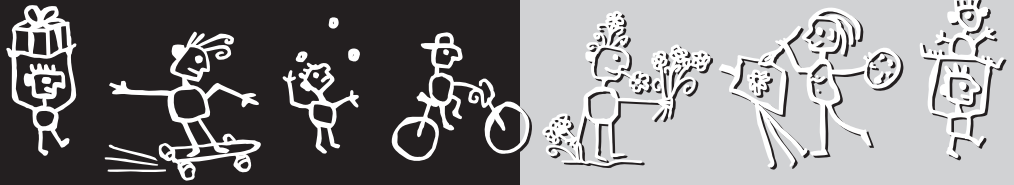
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About *this book*

■ A message to teachers

This is meant to be a practical book – a valuable resource full of ideas and activities to enhance the creation of learning environments that are caring, open, supportive and growth promoting.

It is important that all students are made aware of, and familiarised with, the many positive traits we refer to as **values**.

Being fully aware of the many values people hold in great esteem helps to make students selfless, tolerant and more caring human beings. Aspiring to certain values creates a healthy framework around which students can develop their daily interaction with both peers and adults.

■ A message to students

What are values?

Values are those behavioural traits, attitudes and concepts that have created the type of person you are. Your character is perceived in the minds of others by the presence or absence of these values within you. Are you caring, honest and reliable, possessing the numerous values that complement each other? Or are you perceived as someone unkind and not to be trusted?

Some of our innate values will be stronger and more obvious than others. A person who is scrupulously honest may not have the same strengths in assertiveness or tolerance.

Sometimes it takes a great deal of concentration and hard work to develop internal behaviours that will produce positive concepts of you in the minds of others. If someone conducted a survey of how other people rate the values you possess, which ones do you think would be rated more highly than others? Would your **honesty** be rated above or below such values as **courtesy**, **courage** or **assertiveness**?

Your successes in life will be influenced by the beliefs and attitudes you have about yourself and also the concepts others have of you. Therefore when you are completing activities in this book, think carefully about the things you can improve.



Values Education

SECTION 1

IDENTIFYING VALUES

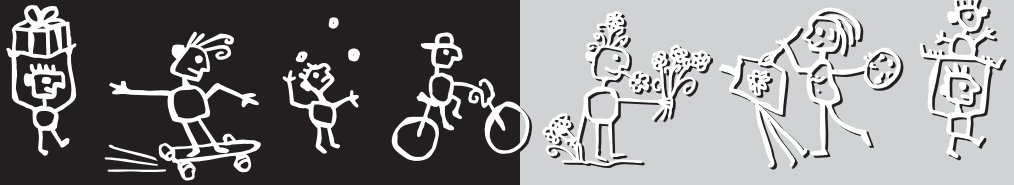
This section includes activities designed to acquaint students with the concept of values behaviour in everyday interaction with others.



Lower primary



Upper primary or for more able students



Developing *personal values*

The following pages contain some ideas to help students understand and be aware of the importance of personal values when interacting with classmates and others. Although not labelled to specific values and traits, they are designed to develop in all students a caring, kind and open approach to others.

A sensory awareness activity

■ Meeting others

The entire class begins to walk around. Each person shakes both hands of a classmate they meet. They then shake the elbows of each person they meet, then their shoulders.



This is a great activity for the beginning of the year when classmates are still getting to know each other.

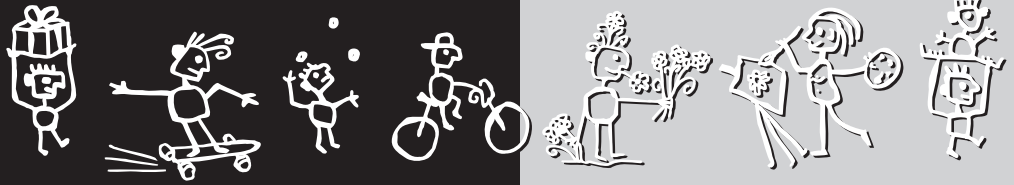
■ Touching

Have each pupil stand up and close their eyes. Ask them to touch something smooth, cold, rough, warm etc.

■ Trust walk

Have students pair off. One person is blindfolded. The other person takes their partner's hand and leads them on a walk around the school yard. The person leading must ensure their partner does not trip or fall. After 10 minutes the students swap places.





Identity activities

These activities help students answer the question *Who am I?*

■ Twenty Questions

Create 20 sentence starters that you want students to complete. Write them on the whiteboard or distribute photocopies.

Include topics such as:

a Things I really like:

I really like it when _____

My favourite day of the week is _____

I think it's really great when _____

b Things I hate:

I don't like it when _____

The food I hate most is _____

I get really upset when _____

c *Me* sentence starters:

The best thing about me is _____

The worst thing about me is _____

I am always _____

I do well in _____

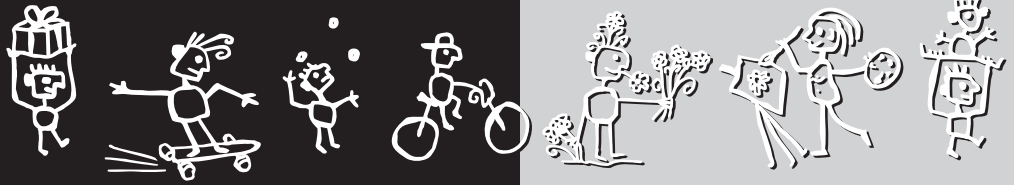
I am proud that I am _____

I would really like to be able to _____

These types of questions, if handled properly, offer an opportunity for students to freely express themselves. They also provide teachers with an insight into each child's aspirations, qualities and values.

■ Family Tree

Provide students with a photocopy of a Family Tree structure. Explain to them what a family tree is. As a homework activity, the students ask their parents for the necessary information to complete their family tree.



Friendship *activities*

A strong knowledge of the qualities and values that create lasting friendships is most important for students to build healthy relationships with others.

■ Friendship books

Provide each pupil with a blank A4 piece of paper. In the top right-hand corner they write their name in very small letters – just large enough to be read.

Students hand their sheets back. These are jumbled and redistributed so each pupil receives someone else's sheet.

Each person must write three positive things about the pupil whose name is at the top of the page.

- e.g. Joe always plays fair in games.
Joe is very strong.
Joe likes to help others.

Students then illustrate or decorate the page in some way. The pages are collected and kept by the teacher. After this activity has been done a number of times distribute the specific sheets back to each pupil. Have them do a front cover called MY FRIENDSHIP BOOK and staple all the sheets together to make a book they can keep. They can read the positive things said about them by others.

■ Friendship qualities

Students discuss what makes a friend. They write sentences that have starters such as:

a The things that make me such a good friend are:

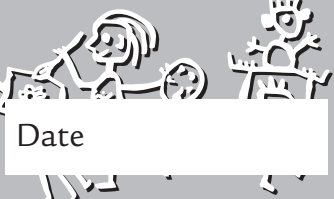
b My best friend _____ is a good friend because he/she:

c I really like friends who:

d I could never be friends with someone who:



Name



Date

What are values?

Values are those qualities and traits that help make you a better person. They include such important things as honesty, friendliness, trustworthiness, courage and many more.

Imagine you are leaving your school to live overseas. You know you will most likely never see your friends again. How would you like your classmates to remember you?

In each box below is a message of farewell from one of your classmates. Choose the words from the Word Bank that you would like them to have written.

To my friend _____, a most _____ person. From Joseph

Goodbye. I will always remember you as a _____ person. From Sulla

Farewell to the most _____ person I ever knew. From Carol

Good luck to _____, the most _____ person I know. From Ben

I'll be thinking of you. You are always so _____. From Zachary

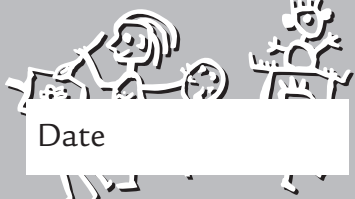
Have a great time. Thank you for your _____. From Robyn

Word Bank

greedy friendship helpful courageous
kind honest generous nasty
forgiving trustworthy caring reliable



Name



Date

Circle values

This activity will make you feel good about yourself and give you confidence. Ask an adult or classmate to fill in each circle.



A strength I have that shows



A quality I have that shines out



A skill I possess



An ability I must develop



My wish for you



Something I have done that helped others



Name

Date

Valuing my possessions

Things that are important to me.

Why I value them.

● _____	● _____
● _____	● _____
● _____	● _____
● _____	● _____
● _____	● _____
● _____	● _____
● _____	● _____
● _____	● _____

