

Sample Activities

Philosophy for Children (P4C)

P4C is a thinking methodology, which encourages the development of questioning and thinking skills, and through dialogue, additionally build speaking and listening skills. A traditional P4C session starts by the children sitting in a circle and being presented with a stimulus, which can be anything from a book to a picture, to a visitor. The children, individually or in pairs, then formulate philosophical questions inspired by the stimulus. Their questions are voted on and a dialogue on the question receiving the most votes follows. At the end of the enquiry they are asked to make a final statement. The whole process should take a minimum of an hour and improves, as the children get more confident with their skills. Many activities and games can be introduced to the pupils within the traditional session or outside of the session to help develop skills to enable them to gain the most possible from the process.

Relevant

Key Stage/s:

All

P4C aims to help children develop the basic skills to boost their self-esteem and intellectual confidence. It aims to create a caring classroom situation where children:

- Learn to listen to and respect each other
- Make links between matters of personal concern
- Are encouraged to challenge and explore the beliefs and values of others, and to develop their own views
- Experience quiet moments of thinking and reflection
- Learn to be clear in their thinking and to make responsible and more deliberate judgements
- Learn to be more thoughtful by basing their decisions and actions on reasons.

Example session plan and process: UK Diversity P4C session

Students and teachers to sit in a big circle.

1. Introduction:

- Using P4C:
 - to promote student led discussion
 - to improve communication skills and thinking

skills

2. Community builder

3. What is a philosophical question? Explain is a question that generates a discussion that can leads to other questions.

4. Stimulus – photos of the UK.

Pass photos around the circle and ask students to put a cross on the back of the pictures they think were taken in the UK.

5. Explain all the pictures were taken in the UK.

- Go through each picture explaining where they were taken and ask students how they made their decisions.
- Ask students where we get our images.

6. Discuss photos in pairs.

- Which photos stick in your mind? What have the photos made you think about?

7. Generate questions in pairs.

Students to go up to flip chart and write up their question.

8. Voting.

9. Discussion.

10. Last comments.

11. Evaluation - Using thumbs up down or on the side.

- How did you get on in the discussion? How did the group get on in the session?

For more information on P4C visit <http://www.sapere.net/>