



PROGRAMME 20: SECRETS

AIMS

The aims of this topic are to develop an awareness of the difference between a secret and a surprise and to develop a conscience in regard to receiving and making secrets.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will be able to:

- know the difference between a secret and a surprise
 - know what to do when faced with secrets that are wrong
 - tell someone they trust about hurtful secrets
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SKILLS

- Communication
 - Sociability and co-operation
 - Problem solving
 - Developing a conscience
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VIRTUES

- Honesty
 - Fairness
 - Empathy
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Lesson *(adapt for Juniors)*

View the DVD *Good Surprises, Bad Secrets*.

1. Play a game of Chinese Whispers with the class. Have the class seated in a circle. The first child whispers a sentence to his/her neighbour. That person whispers to his/her neighbour the same sentence until everyone has had a turn. If the sentence is very different from that at the beginning, the children need to realise that sometimes telling secrets can get turned around into something that was not originally said.

2. The children have a piece of paper and a pencil and are seated in a circle. Each child must write his or her name at the bottom of the paper. Explain that everyone is going to write something positive about the person whose paper they have. All children have one minute to write something, fold over their comment and then pass on to the next child. At the end read out the positive things people have said about each other. Then discuss how good surprises make them feel.

3. Summarise the main points with the children of *Secrets* and/or use the DVD as reference.

Secrets Word Search

Name:

Date:

X	N	K	Y	W	F	A	I	U	S
J	S	T	R	N	R	Z	Z	V	X
A	H	O	U	S	I	Y	Y	Z	U
X	N	S	V	E	E	C	T	B	D
G	D	X	E	C	N	D	L	O	D
Q	Z	K	J	C	D	M	Z	A	I
C	V	O	X	R	R	Y	S	E	N
P	Q	J	D	S	Q	E	A	I	N
W	H	I	S	P	E	R	T	L	L
Y	X	B	B	Q	L	L	E	T	P

- Friend
- Sad
- Whisper
- Lie
- Play
- Wrong
- Secret

How does it make you feel when others tell secrets about you?

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What can you do when you hear a nasty secret about someone you know?

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Surprises (*Senior*)

Name: Date:

Circle the best answer:

1. Your best friend tells a nasty secret to another friend about you. Do you:
 - a. Tell the teacher or parent.
 - b. Consult a peer mediator.
 - c. Tell everyone the same secret about him or her.

2. Your friend has told you that someone is spreading lies about your sister/brother. Do you:
 - a. Confront that person and tell them that they are being dishonest and hurtful.
 - b. Tell the other children not to hang around with that person.
 - c. See a teacher or peer mediator.

3. Everyone has been whispering behind your back and laughing. What should you do?
 - a. Walk away and ignore them.
 - b. Confront them.
 - c. Assume they will get over themselves and it's not a big deal anyway.

4. Write about a time when someone surprised you and you felt really good.

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5. To you, what is the main difference between a secret and a surprise?

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Supplementary Activities

Art

Using old socks, make puppets representing children. Use felt for ears, buttons for eyes, wool for hair etc. Make up some short scenarios on secrets and surprises.

Written Language

Write a play about children telling secrets and lies and have them find a happy solution.

Have children write an account about a time when they have made up secrets about another person or have had secrets made up about them and how that made them feel.

Write a story about a character who needs to tell a bad secret and how they take the right steps to deal with it.

Technology/ICT

Have children make up a slideshow on how hurtful secrets can be. Make up a slideshow on how fantastic surprises can be.

Postbox

Have a cardboard box that represents a postbox in the class. Children write something positive about certain children and post them in the postbox. At the end of each week the teacher reads out all the positive words about the children.

Drama

Your best friend tells you a secret. Decide whether it's a bad secret or a surprise and how you can help. Present this back to the class.

Visual Language

Create a poster with good surprises on one side and bad secrets on the other.

Health

Find out the agencies or people who can help if you have something you wish to discuss.
