



PROGRAMME 2: ABILITIES

AIM

The aim of this lesson is for children to appreciate their abilities, their talents and the achievements in their lives.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will:

- learn to recognise their talents, and abilities in a range of situations
 - develop an appreciation of other children's achievements and true abilities
 - recognise that all children have different strengths and abilities
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SKILLS

- Communication
 - Co-operation
 - Self-management
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MATERIALS

- DVD 1 episode 'Abilities'
 - A large piece of paper or a whiteboard
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VIRTUES

- Friendship
 - Sharing
 - Caring
 - Co-operation
 - Honesty
 - Giving
 - Happiness
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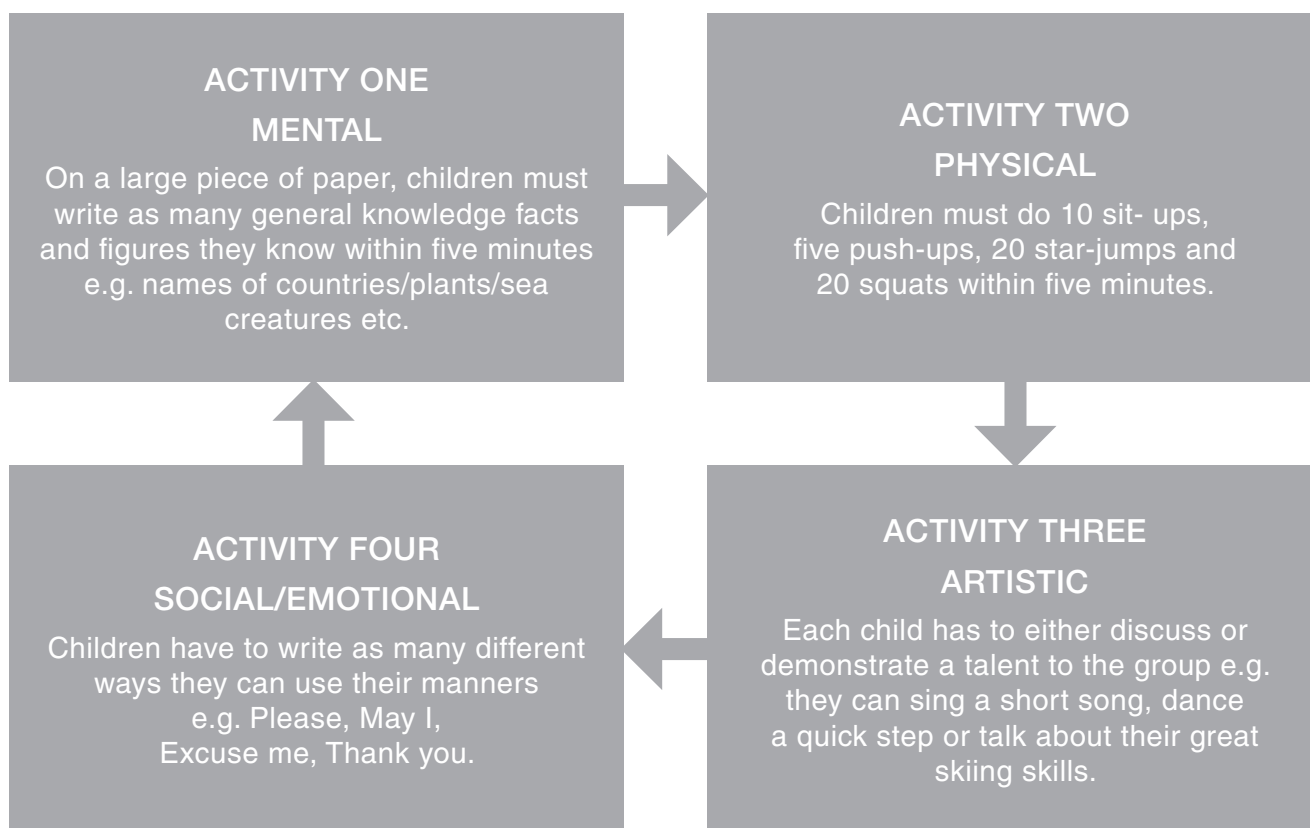
LESSONS *(Adapt for Juniors)*

View the episode 'Abilities' on DVD 1 before the lesson. See CD Rom for printable worksheets.

1. Abilities encompass many areas including physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Ask the children what they feel abilities or strengths are. Mind map the ideas on a large piece of paper or on the whiteboard.

Explain that abilities are unique to each child regardless of what is projected out in society, and that we should celebrate and acknowledge and appreciate these on a regular basis.

2. As a class, organise four activities that relate to the four categories: Mental, Physical, Artistic, Social/Emotional (or whatever suits your class). These activities can be completed within the room as a rotation exercise and should be timed for around five minutes each. This is a fun way for children to acknowledge that they may have more abilities than they realise.



3. Recap the most enjoyable experiences of the previous activities. Then discuss with the children whether or not they have increased their awareness of their abilities after completing these activities.

Using the Ability and Talent Shield included in the lesson, have children write and draw pictures of their abilities and talents. Share the finished shields with the class and display.

ABILITY AND TALENT SHIELD

Name:

Date:

SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Art

Using an overhead projector, have one child stand in front of a sheet of cartridge paper with their side view profile projected onto the paper. Trace around the profile of the face with a black marker. Divide the face into four or five different parts with a black marker. In the middle of each segment, with a cotton bud of bleach or with white chalk, have the children write a positive attribute, talent or ability they believe they have. Dye each segment a different colour. Cut the profile out and display on the classroom wall.

ICT

Using a video camera, film teachers, teacher aides and other staff members at the school sharing the achievements of which they have been most proud in their lives. Edit, add background music and show to an audience.

Using a video camera, film parents and grandparents talking about their talents, achievements and abilities when they were the same age as their children and grandchildren. Edit, add appropriate background music and show to an audience.

Language

Write an acrostic poem on ABILITIES or TALENTS.

Oral Language

Have children talk about their interests, talents and abilities at school and at home. Talk about prizes won, events entered and certificates gained.

Children can 'hot seat' others by asking them a range of questions about their past and current achievements, abilities and talents.

Topic

Design a poster, write a speech or give a 'show and tell' session on somebody who overcame their disabilities to achieve something extraordinary in their life (Terry Fox, Helen Keller, Stevie Wonder etc.)

Design a science experiment that lets people 'feel' what it is like to have a disability (you can do this by using art/models/actual props etc). Ask the person in the experiment what it felt like to have a disability and how other people treated them.

Written Language

Write a report on the achievements children have made at school and at home. List the events and achievements on a chart for all to see.
