

Getting to know you Classroom Activity Ideas



Upper primary/ Secondary

Let's play detective

Create a Clue sheet for each child with questions such as
"My favourite hobby is _____."
"When I grow up, I want to have a job as a _____."
"The most fun thing I did all summer was _____."

Encourage each child to find a spot where they can write their answers to the questions. When finished ask the children to hand the sheets to you. When all are complete, hand an anonymous Clue Sheet to each child ensuring they do not end up with their own.

Then, explain the challenge;

"I want to see whether you're good detectives," Invite the children to move around, asking questions of their classmates, narrowing down the list of "suspects" until they find the one person who matches all the clues they hold.

Once everyone has found the person on their clue sheet, encourage the children to share information about that person from their clue sheet.

Two Truths and a Dream

This activity gives you as the teacher the opportunity to get to know your children better and for the children to get to know each other better. As the teacher, start the activity by sharing two things that are true about yourself and one thing that is a dream -- one thing that you wish was true but is not! (Be cautious as to what information you share as the teacher, it should not be personal).

Campfire Stories

In your classroom (before the children arrive) mock up a pretend campfire using sticks/ branches (or rolled up brown paper), fabric leaves and either use a lamp with a red bulb to create the fire effect or use red and yellow/ orange paper and cellophane. Close the blinds, turn off the lights, and arrange blankets around the area on the floor. Ensure any children who struggle with transition such as children with autism are prepared for the change to the classroom and know what to expect. You could encourage them to help you set it up as a means of supporting their transition.

When the children enter the room, they will be very surprised to see a *campfire* in the middle of their classroom! Invite children to sit around the campfire, close their eyes, and think back over the summer months. Ask each to choose a memorable event from the summer to share with the group. Invite the other children to interact and ask questions to gain more information

Extension activity to promote literacy skills; After everyone, including the teacher, has shared a story, it's time to transform the stories told into published stories. They can publish their stories as big books, pictures, comic strips, slide shows, plays, etc. At the end of the process, children share their stories again but in a new way! If they make books, add those books to the classroom library. (children love to read the stories over and over again!)

Further information

Realize has shared just a few activities that can be used to encourage children to get to know each other and for teacher to get to know their class. There are many, many more.



To access further information and resources on disabilities, strategies to support children and young people and resources, please visit our online information and resources platform Realize More:

www.realizebelize.org

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