

Builder - My World - The World of Friends

Requirement

- A. Make friends with a person who has a handicap or a person of another culture, or generation.
- B. Invite that person to a family or church event.

Goal of this track

To enable the children to encounter God's world with confidence and compassion.

Concept Included in This Component

Social Skills, courtesy, prejudice, peer pressure..

Objective of this component

Upon completion of the Adventurer requirements the children will:

- Know: how to develop and participate in friendships in a positive way,
- Feel: confident in social situations, and
- Respond: by acting with compassion and courage and thereby enjoying fulfilling friendships.

Background Information

Children learn prejudice toward others from the people and places around them. Their experiences, or lack of experiences, with different kinds of people may cause them to accept inaccurate stereotypes about what an entire group of people is like. It is through learning about, and associating with, a wide variety of people that prejudices can be broken down. In this way a more accurate understanding of people as valuable individuals develops.

To be prejudiced toward someone means to pre-judge that person and to treat them in a different way. The problem with pre-judgments is that they are often untrue and they cause us to treat people unfairly. Prejudice may involve stereotypes about age, race, country of origin, religion, looks, intelligence, gender, political beliefs, culture, or economic status.

Some ideas for helping children to become aware of prejudice and learn to avoid it are given below.

1. Recognise that everyone has the same basic feelings and needs and wants to be loved, trusted and respected.
2. Learn to tell the difference between a fact and an opinion.
3. Keep an open mind about each person you meet.
4. Spend time developing friendships with people about whom you know very little.

Teaching Tips

- Use a story or personal example to help the children understand what prejudice is and why it is so damaging.
- Work with the children individually (or as a group) to choose a person (or group of people) to make friends with. (Tact should be used in helping the children realise and communicate the fact that they are doing this activity to learn more about some very special people and not to embarrass anyone in any way .)
- The children could become involved with people in one of the following places.
 - * A nursing home
 - * A school for blind, deaf, or mentally impaired children
 - * A church club, Sabbath School class, or school where most people are of another race, etc.
 - * Their own neighbourhood
- After spending time with other people and building friendships, the children may invite them to a special program at church, school, or home.
- Other Bible stories, texts and quotations:

Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)
Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek. . ."

"Students are to be taught the Christ likeness of exhibiting a kindly interest, a social disposition, toward those who are in the greatest need, even though these may not be their own chosen companions." (*Messages to Young People*, page 406)

"In your association with others, put yourself in their place. Enter into their feelings, their difficulties, their disappointments, their joys, and their sorrows." (*Messages to Young People*, page 420)

"And God has especially enjoined tender respect toward the aged . . . Help the children to think of this, and they will smooth the path of the aged by their courtesy and respect, and will bring grace and beauty into their young lives as they heed the command." (*Education*, page 244)

"Those who are fighting the battle of life at great odds may be refreshed and strengthened by little attentions which cost nothing." (*The Adventist Home*, page 485)

Norm's Notes

This component comes under the general heading of friendships, but the requirements in the Builder class is to make friends with someone who is "different". "Political Correctness" these days tries to act as if there are no differences, but there are!

The attitude desired here is that differences exist but they should not be a barrier to friendship. At all costs avoid a patronising attitude. The friendship is being made with "different" people not to condescend, but to recognise them as different but interesting. The children need to

recognise that in something each one of them is better than everyone else and in some things they are at a disadvantage compared with everyone else.

The material here is taken from pages 14, 26 and 130 - 131 of the printed manual.