

Fishy friends

Encourage the children to think about sharing with others using these activities based on a favourite book

Scale by scale

Stepping Stone: seek out others to share experiences (PSED).

Early Learning Goal: work as part of a group, taking turns and sharing fairly (PSED).

Group size: small group.

What you need

The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister (North-South Books); large outline shape of the Rainbow Fish; scale shapes pre-cut from card; paint in various colours; paintbrushes; shiny paper; glue; scissors.

What to do

- Read the story of *The Rainbow Fish* to the children. Explain that you are going to make a giant collage of the fish.
- Ask each child to work on one scale and choose a colour to paint it.
- Work together to make the Rainbow Fish's last shiny scale. Each child can take turns to glue on some shiny paper.
- When all the scales are finished, help the children to decide how to arrange them on the fish. Where will they place the shiny scale?
- Label the individual scales with the children's names. Display the Rainbow Fish on the wall to remind the children about sharing.



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Support and extension

Help younger children to recognise their name and scribe it on their scale. Let older children write their own names. Invite older children to paint some of the other fish from the story. Remember to give each fish just one shiny scale.

Home links

● Encourage parents to talk with their children about sharing with friends and siblings.

● Organise a special 'Sharing Day'. Ask children to bring in toys from home to share with their friends.

Pass the fish

Stepping Stone: begin to accept the needs of others, with support (PSED).

Early Learning Goal: consider the consequences of their words and actions for themselves and others (PSED).

Group size: whole group.

What you need

The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister (North-South Books); toy fish (a hand-puppet Rainbow Fish is available from Puppets by Post, tel: 01462-446040); biscuits or other food to share (check for food allergies and dietary requirements).

What to do

● Read the story of *The Rainbow Fish* up to 'Now he was the loneliest fish in the entire ocean'. Talk about how the little blue fish felt when the Rainbow Fish would not give him one shiny scale. Why was the Rainbow Fish lonely? What do the children think the Rainbow Fish should have done?

● Read the rest of the story. Did the Rainbow Fish do what the children expected? Was he still lonely at the end of the story?

● Sit in a circle together. Pass the toy fish around as you sing this song to the tune of 'Frère Jacques'.

*We are sharing, we are sharing,
With our friends, with our friends,
Sharing makes us happy, sharing makes us happy.*

It's good to share, it shows we care.

● Invite the child who is holding the fish at the end of the song to discuss how they feel if someone does not share a toy with them. Is it easy to share a special toy with the other children?

● At the end of the session, share some food together. Ask one child who usually finds it hard to share to hand out the biscuits.

Support and extension

Act out *The Rainbow Fish* to reinforce the sharing message for younger children. Encourage older children to relate and role-play their own experiences of sharing or not sharing to the group.

Further idea

● Make badges saying 'I can share' with a small, shiny scale on, to remind the children of the Rainbow Fish.

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