



# VALUES EDUCATION

By Carol Read

## WHY TEACH VALUES IN CLASS

There are lots of benefits to teaching values to pre-primary children.

- They help children understand how to behave towards others
- They help children to look after the environment
- They help children develop a positive view of themselves
- They enrich children's language development
- They help children to become responsible citizens in the future

## HOW TO TEACH VALUES IN CLASS

- Introduce values education gradually over time
- Teach children values-related language, for example, 'kind', 'sorry', 'please', 'thank you'
- Give positive feedback when children share or are kind to others
- Comment positively when they tidy up the classroom
- Use everyday classroom activities to teach values

## 3 FUN ACTIVITY TYPES TO TEACH VALUES

Give the children the opportunity to think about values-related situations through...

### 1 STORIES

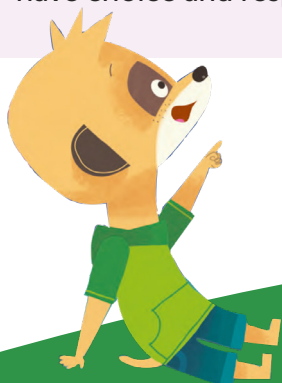
Stories often show values through the characters. They give children a safe context to think about their own behaviour and attitudes because they talk about the characters and not themselves.

### 2 SONGS

Use songs about values, for example, making an effort or keeping their environment clean. Refer to the song when you want the children to make an effort or clear up and invite them to sing the song with you.

### 3 CONTRASTING ACTIVITIES

Use activities that show contrasting situations (e.g. a tidy room vs an untidy room) to show children they have choice and responsibility in the way they behave.



**TOP TIP:** Children learn values through the way you model appropriate behaviour and give positive feedback.



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