

The lion and the mouse



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AGE	3 – 6 years
VALUE	Respect
MATERIALS	Stage props for re-enacting the story. Could be anything available, even have children decide what they need and want to use.
DURATION	30 minutes
GROUP SIZE	Up to 15 children
OBJECTIVES	Recognizing and respecting the needs and values of others. Developing self-confidence through actively taking part in the play Recognizing that people deserve respect, independent of their characteristics.
METHODOLOGY	Storytelling, theatre play
AUTHOR	Äsop



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STEP BY STEP IMPLEMENTATION

Step 1 - Storytelling

Once upon a time there lived a lion who ruled the forest. One day after eating his meal, the lion fell asleep under a tree. A little mouse saw him and thought it would be fun to play on him. It began running up and down the sleeping lion. It ran up the tail and slid down the tail. The lion woke up angrily with a loud roar. He grabbed the mouse with his huge paw. The mouse struggled but could not escape. The lion opened his big jaws to swallow him. The mouse was very scared. „O King, I am very scared. Please, don't eat me! Forgive me this time. Please, let me go! I shall never forget it and maybe one day I can help you.“ The lion was so amused by the idea of the mouse being able to help him that he lifted up his paw and let him go. „Thank you, king! I will never forget your kindness.“ „You are lucky my friend, that I have just eaten. Now go, but don't mess with me again.“

Few days later, the lion was roaming the jungle. Hunters set a trap to catch the lion. The hunters hid behind a tree, waiting for the lion to approach the trap. As he did, the hunters pulled the ropes, and caught him in the net. The lion started to roar loudly and tried to escape, but the hunters fastened the net. They went back to the village to bring a cart to transport the lion. The lion was still roaring loudly. All the animals including the mouse heard the roar. The king is in trouble, I must return the favour.

He soon reached the lion. Don't worry, my king. I will set you free. He climbed up the trap and used his sharp little teeth to bite through the ropes. Finally he freed the lion from the trap. The lion realized that even a little mouse can be a great help. „Thank you mouse, you saved the king's life. I will never trouble you again. Live happily in my forest.“ „Thank you King. Bye. See you soon“. „Where are you going? Don't you want to play on me and slide down my tail? The mouse started jumping on his back and sliding down his tail. After a while, the hunters came back with a big cart to carry the lion. The lion and mouse saw them and started running towards them. The lion gave a big roar. The hunters were terrified and ran away back to the village. Lion and mouse became friends forever.

Conclusion: Even seemingly weak and insignificant creatures can make an important difference; therefore one should also treat them with respect.

Step 2 – Role play

Play the story with the children. Let them take on different roles and take turns. Let them think of the props they need and what could be used that is already there (for cage and ropes).

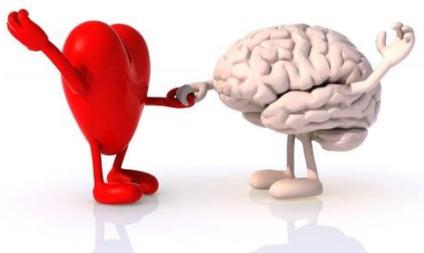
Please note that the same story has been used under the value "Respect" entitled "We dialogue and live in peace".



CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

OBSERVED BEHAVIOR	YES	NO	COMENTS
Children actively take part in the role play.			
Children understand that everybody deserves respect no matter how big they are.			
Children understand that difference isn't attached to value.			
Children understand that difference needs to be respected.			

*A prerequisite for peace is respect for being different and for the diversity of life.
- Dalai Lama*



Self-care Hints for Childcare professionals and teachers:

Count chairs. Counting rhythmically will help keep your adrenaline more regulated.