

6.1 A bouquet of flowers

Goal

This exercise promotes the cohesion of groups and the self-worth of their members. The students experience and learn to appreciate that each individual within a group is unique and simultaneously contributes to the overall strength of the group.

1st – 3rd grade

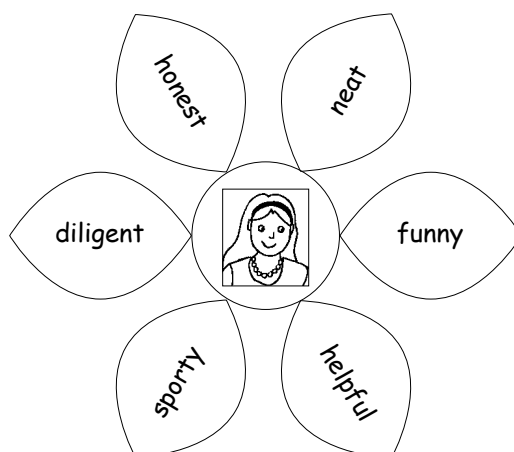
30–45 minutes



Materials:
small photo portrait (possibly also a drawn portrait) of each child (max. 4x4 cm). Paper (yellow or orange) for cutting out circles of (ca. 6 cm in diameter) which represent the inside of the flowers. Other colored paper for cutting out the flower petals, colored felt pens or colored pens (A1, flipchart size papers), glue.

Procedure:

- The students receive a round piece of paper, upon which they affix their self portrait.
- Each student takes six petals and writes on it one or two positive words about something, that
 - the instructor could say about him/her (e. g. "diligent" or "sporty")
 - a male family member could say about him/her
 - a female family member could say about him/her
 - s/he could say about him or herself
 - a friend could say about him/her
 - someone in class, school, or in the community could say about him/her.



- The students arrange the petals around the circle in the center with the photo, thus creating the flowers. They are then glued onto the large paper.
- To each flower head, the students then draw a stem and leaves, thus creating a colorful bouquet. With an added ribbon, the bouquet looks especially pretty!
- In the class as a whole, the students sit in a circle and comment on their bouquet. This procedure also illustrates the symbolism of diversity: without the many different flowers, the bunch would look less rich (community); each flower is different and contributes in a unique manner to the bouquet's variety (individuality, human dignity); each flower/each portrait is equally important as the next one (equal rights).