

Pirate Day in May is an engaging way for students of all ages to learn valuable lessons about social awareness, teamwork, leadership and diversity. Here are some suggested ways you can incorporate these lessons into your classroom - choose one, two or all three!

Lesson 1: Understanding and compassion

Drawing Shapes

Task: Children take turns in being blindfolded while sitting at a desk. They are told to draw specific shapes using paper and pencil. Once the shape has been drawn, the child is allowed to remove their blindfold and examine the picture.

Lesson recap: Emphasize how hard a daily activity can be without sight. Did you know that kids can lose their sight through diseases such as brain cancer?

Teacher note: Activity is linked to Valuing Diversity, an HPE contributing to the health and active communities sub-strand.

Lesson 2: Initiative

Captain Says

Task: Play a game of 'Simon Says' with a pirate twist. Let children take turns to be 'Simon' or the 'Captain'.

Lesson recap: Ask the class to imagine if there was no 'Simon'. How hard would it be to get everyone to do the same thing? Is it important to have a leader? Emphasize how easy it is to be a leader, you can never be too young.

Teacher note: Activity is linked to Understanding Relationships, an SEL social-awareness element.

Also Developing Movement Concepts and Strategies, an HPE moving our body sub-strand.

Lesson 3: Warmth in our community

Hide and Seek

Task: Show students an item (can be anything). Ask students to close their eyes while you hide the item in the classroom. See if they can find it as a team. *Good hiding place tip: Taped under a desk!*

Lesson recap: Have a discussion about how much harder it would have been to find the object alone. Did they help each other? How? Tell students to imagine how hard it would be to do the activity alone. Ask them to list other activities that would be difficult to do without the help of others.

Teacher note: Activity is linked to Teamwork and Leadership, an HPE Learning through movement sub-strand.

End of day recap

Thought starters for a class discussion at the end of the day:

- What have they learned today about empathy, leadership and community spirit?
- What will they do when they meet with someone who has cancer?
- Create a list of how they might help someone who has cancer.

Teacher note: Reviewing each lesson links to Develop Reflective Practice, an SEL self-awareness element.

THANK YOU!

We appreciate that as a teacher there is so much you need to get through each day. Thank you for taking time out to plan, host and facilitate activities to enrich your students' understanding of childhood cancer.