

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AGE FUN!

Flashpaper Chalice. You can purchase the flashpaper used in today's demonstration here: <http://www.dreamlandmagic.com> – Product name “Flash Paper Pads 2x3 Inch Size 20 Sheets”

Staring Your Year – Creating a Place of Trust, Support, and Connection Through FUN!

Before beginning either of the next two activities, discuss “spotting” techniques to your class. Those who are not the willow must have one foot in front of the other, have their arms outstretched, elbows locked, and fingers loose, as well as be ready and alert.

Trust Line. Place a line of masking tape on the ground and have the kids stand on either side of the tape, leaving no gaps. To start, one person stands at one end of the tape and spins around 10 times, while everyone counts his turns. The person must then attempt to run down the length of the line as straight as they can. The kids on the side stand with their arms out ready to catch and protect the person from falling. The point is for the kids to know that their classmates won't let them fall.

Willow in the Wind. One participant must volunteer to be the “willow.” The willow must stand in the middle of a group with their eyes closed, their feet together, body upright, arms crossed across chest. They will perform a series of “trust leans” against the other participants, whose job is to hold up the willow and pass them around without allowing them to fall or feel frightened as if they're going to fall. This will ensure that they will successfully pass the willow around without any troubles. Various co-workers can take turns being the willow. This technique helps coworkers establish and build trust with each other in an open, fun environment.

The Line-Up Game. Introduce the cans. Getting your group to interact, sit next to someone new, and hopefully have fun in the process.

Conveying Big Messages – Big Ideas Are Best Remembered When Learned While Having FUN!

Paper Towel Tube Challenge. This activity involves moving marbles through paper towel or wrapping paper tubes. Each participant has only one short paper towel tube and the start and finish points can be separated by an obstacle course! This activity can be done with children of upper primary age or teens. Choose this activity when you need to energize the group, talk about communication, supporting each other, or to emphasize the importance of each member's actions in a team. Now – use this for one of your big messages. Write words on the paper towel tubes that represent parts of an interdependent system (the web of life, 7 principles, items needed for successful social justice efforts, etc.).

The Limitless Possibilities Jar. Get a large clear container, rocks, pebbles, sand, and water – keep everything but the jar out of site of any of the kids when not in use. Use your jar as a metaphor for a big message. The jar is your amount of free time, your ability to love, facets of the web of life, etc. Have the kids put the big rocks in the jar. Ask – Is it now full? Most kids will say yes. Then, pull (from a hidden space) the medium rocks out. Ask the kids to fill put the medium rocks in too. Is it full now? Haha, they see what you're doing, most kids now say now. Pull out the sand. Have your kids put the sand in, it will slide between all the rocks – shake and fill, shake and fill. Is it full now? At this point, most kids will say yes again as it looks rather full. Be sure to sprinkle in talk as they are filling about your big message. If this was “I need to make time for the things that matter, like helping my family by doing chores, but I just can't fit it in” or “Is there a place in the web of life for manufacturing?” – as you've also been mentioning these big ideas, now bring out a pitcher of water. Have the kids slowly add the water to the container, and

ask “Is it now full?” Talk about how finding creative solutions to “fit it all in” solves problems, makes you prioritize (What are the big rocks that go in first? What is the water that you squeeze around everything else?)

The Apple as Earth. This exercise uses an apple, to illustrate our dependency on the biosphere. Discuss each step and what each part of the apple represents as you demonstrate this activity. Slice an apple, which represents the earth, into quarters. Set aside three quarters to represent the oceans. Slice the remaining quarter into two pieces and remove one of the pieces that represents the land that is inhospitable for people to inhabit (deserts, flood plains, steep mountains). The remaining 1/8 of the apple represents the land where people live, but not all of which may grow the foods needed for survival. Slice the remaining 1/8 of the original apple into four sections and set aside three of the sections. These represent areas with climates too rocky, too steep, or too cold to produce food. Carefully peel the remaining 1/32 slice of the earth. This represents the surface, the very thin skin of the earth’s crust, or topsoil upon which humanity depends. It is less than five feet deep and is capable of producing a relatively fixed amount of food. Due to erosion and over farming, we lose 24 billion tons of it per year. It takes 100 years for one inch of topsoil to form. Trees planted as stream buffers can prevent erosion of topsoil, and are effective recyclers of soil nutrients.

Creating Props – Having a Hands-on Activity Can Keep a Group Focused on Your Big Ideas.

Primordial Galaxy Ooze. Talking about the universe? Stars? Where we all came from? How about making their own galaxy of stars? In a bowl, mix 1 cup water, ½ teaspoon Borax. In a separate bowl, mix 1 cup water, 1 bottle clear Elmer’s glue, and your choice of food coloring. Or for a starry sky use a colored glitter glue instead of clear glue. Mix the two bowls together and create instant ooze! Discard any excess water before distributing handfuls that the kids can play with on the table. Have ziplock bags handy so they can take it home. This also makes a great discussion point if you’re talking about how one tiny thing (1/2 teaspoon of magical Borax) can change everything (you can change the world!) – turns glue and water into something completely new.

1-Minute Play Doh. Talk about creation myths? Discuss while you create your own humans. Talking about families? Recreate your own in doh to show your classmates. Have kids work in pairs to make a batch they share. Give each pair 2 cups of cornstarch and 1 cup of lotion or hair conditioner (try to avoid strong scents). Mix and knead until you get the desired consistency.

Parachute Ideas For Elementary Kids.

Group Balance: Ask all the players to roll up a piece of the parachute and get them to take a tight grip. Get everyone to slowly lean backwards all at the same time. If everyone works together they should be able to lean backwards quite far without losing their balance. For an extra challenge ask them to turn their backs to the parachute and grip it from behind and then to lean forward!

Washing Machine: Two players of similar size and weight sit back to back in the middle of the parachute (with shoes off) linking arms. The rest hold on round the edges and start walking round in a circle. The parachute will eventually get smaller and smaller. At a command the players holding the edges quickly move out, and the two in the middle are spun around quickly.

Blindman’s Path: This is an interesting parachute game that involves an element of trust. All but one player kneels around the edge of the parachute holding it with both hands; the remaining player stands on the parachute in the center wearing a blindfold. Two players kneeling next to each other hold their section of the parachute to the floor, whilst everyone else shakes it up and down. The object is for the blindfolded

player to find their way out in the fastest possible time. It is not as easy as it sounds and if you add sound effects to the flapping it is a good experience. If you have a large parachute put two players in the center blindfolded, and the winner is the first out. If this is done make sure they walk with hands out in front as buffer

If you're doing Bibleodeon, there are parachute games for Noah and the Ark, Ezekiel and the Wheel, Peter Walking on Water, etc. just Google Bible and parachute.