

Lesson 1 – Introducing Linking to your class – Lesson Plan



The Linking Network

Learning Objective	Teaching and Learning Activities
<p>L.O. To think about our 'School Linking journey' and create a message to send to our link class.</p>	<p><i>Before the lesson – gather from the link class, some photos of the school building, classroom and if possible, a short audio, written or video message from the link teacher introducing themselves, and a photo of the link class (GDPR permitting).</i></p>
<p>Purpose of this Lesson</p>	<p>This lesson plan includes a range of ideas to introduce the children to the school/class they will be Linking with. <i>(This could also be within your own school perhaps with another class in the same year group or socially distanced group if it is felt that building connection matters.)</i></p>
<p>The purpose of this lesson is to give the children an overview of the linking journey ahead. They will begin to find out a little more about their link school, think about how we communicate and connect with others and start exploring the four Linking questions: Who am I? Who are we? Where do we live? How do we all live together?</p>	<p>Finding out about linking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display the word 'Linking' on the board. Also show other words from the word family – linked, link, links. Ask children - What does the word 'Linking' mean to you? Allow children some thinking time/talk partner. Feedback and discuss synonyms and the word in context. Linking = joining, together, connecting, making stronger. Record some of children's vocabulary choices and definitions. Then share the words 'Schools Linking' and ask the children to think what that might mean. Then in as exciting a way as possible share with the class that they will be taking part in linking with another school/class this year. Use images from the other school's website or that you have exchanged with your linking teacher at CPD1. Can you create a big reveal? • Display your collected images of the link teacher, school, and empty classroom. Discuss the similarities and differences of the school building and classroom and record any interesting observations to highlight these. • Use Google maps to locate the linking school/your school and show the route between them. • If your link teachers made a hello video/audio/written message enjoy it together (pre-recorded at CPD1 and sent prior to the lesson). • If you have a class photo of the other class share it with the children. • Using the images on the PPT of things that may happen during linking (play games, create art, learn sign language etc) to give the children a glimpse of their learning journey, not in lots of detail but to allow some ownership of the process. (see extension below)
<p>Key Questions</p>	
<p>What does the word 'Linking' mean? What does Schools Linking mean? What makes us happy? How do we connect with other people?</p>	
<p>Exchange Information</p>	
<p>Before this lesson, exchange a photo of the link school, classroom, and a photo of each teacher to share with each class. Exchange a short written, audio, or written message from each teacher introducing themselves to the link class including 3 pieces of information about themselves. If possible, exchange first names of the class and a photo.</p>	
<p>Family Engagement</p>	
<p>Ask at Home - <i>How do you feel when you meet new people?</i> Introduce Linking at Home - letter to introduce linking and ask for permissions. Download from https://thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/schools-linking-2020-2021/family-engagement/</p>	<p>Steps-Getting to know others:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Play a Name game and talk about learning names as part of getting to know people. Speedy Name Game: The teacher starts off by saying the name of someone in the class. Once the teacher has said the name out loud, they sit down. The pupil whose name has been chosen then says the name of another child in the class before sitting down too. The child who has been chosen then chooses another name and so on. The game continues until everyone in the class is sitting down. The final child finishes the game by saying the name of the teacher. Once the game is over it can start again by asking each child to stand up this time when their name is called. Children must listen very carefully in this game and be very quiet so they can hear the speaker. Using a timer to see how fast they can go can be fun. If you have a photo of the linking class you can share, you can talk about how we already know each other but how we will get to know these children over the year and how we can send a message to them.
<p>Resources</p>	
<p>Introducing your class to linking PowerPoint 4 Question recording sheet (optional - Download from: https://thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/schools-linking-2020-2021/lesson-1-introducing-linking/</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Create and send a message to say hello to your link class. You may wish to send a short email, a little video clip or write a message on a piece of paper that you can take a photo of and send. Your message could be as simple as, "Hello everyone! We are XXX Class in Year X at XXX School. We're really excited to be linking with you and learn more about you. We've thought of lots of things that make us happy – including xxx and we wonder what makes you happy. We'll be in touch again soon!" This process of being in touch with another class and sharing information deepens over time.

<p>Resources for exchanges - Guidance for recording effective videos Guidance for editing videos Guidance for sending large files Download from: https://thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/schools-linking-2020-2021/digital-support/</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ways to say hello. Find out ways to say hello the class already know. Learn to 'sign' hello? Learn sign language for Hello and Goodbye as something we can learn together through the year. Explain this is a great skill that can help us to communicate. You could look at the slide of socially distanced greetings. 4. Think about What makes us happy? to share with the link class- explain that sharing information is the first step in building connections and getting to know people. 5. Think about How will we keep in touch? Take ideas from the class about ways to send a message to exchange information with the link class (Video, email, voice recording, photographs, pieces of work)
<p>Additional TLN resources</p>	
<p>Reflection, TLN Identity Pack, Feelings by Libby Walden, Skin Again by Bell Hooks</p>	<p>Discuss feelings about linking: How do the children feel about 'linking' with another school/class/group and meeting others in general? Teachers gauge the feelings of the group. Record these to refer to later in future lessons to see if there have been any changes. Reassure children that being honest about feelings is important because exploring feelings and having the opportunity to describe feelings is important. Reflecting on how feelings change through the process is also important. <i>(Further ideas for reflection are available)</i></p>
<p>Curriculum Links</p>	
<p>See PSHE, Citizenship, RSHE, SMSC and English objectives that are addressed through the Linking Programme along with specific Geography and Computing objectives that could be addressed in this lesson. https://thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/schools-linking-2020-2021/teacher-cpd/</p>	<p>Additional Activity: Write the children's names <i>(and possibly the names of the link class)</i> on strips of paper and join them together in a paperchain. Use this to visualize the word 'linking'. This could be used for a display.</p> <p><i>You could look at the journey image on the PPT and share the 4 linking questions.</i> This lesson introduces the idea of a linking journey with four linking questions and allows children to begin thinking about these in quite simple terms – as lessons develop significant ideas and thoughts will gradually build forming deeper and broader understanding of ideas connected to these. <i>Journey Image: discuss the ideas behind linking as a journey of getting to know people, drawing out the way the paths cross over and loop around the picture of the world.</i></p>
<p>Notes for Teachers</p>	
<p>Sensitivity, awareness and understanding of your class and community is essential before exploring any activities relating to identity.</p> <p>It can be useful to begin activities by sharing information about your own identity to help children be confident about sharing information about themselves. However, it is important to recognize that some children may be uncomfortable or may not wish to share some things. It is valuable to teach children that they should only share what they want to share.</p> <p>Activities are written with social distancing measures in mind with no shared objects or contact. At all stages, exchanges of information should be sent via teachers in line with their school policies.</p>	<p><i>The slides show all 4 Linking questions that we will ask through the year: Who am I? Who are we? Where do we live? How do we all live together? Keeping with the theme of the Linking Journey briefly think about each of the questions using the PowerPoint to support gathering initial thoughts and ideas. (Recording Sheet available) with a template with the 4 questions, the children can record their own initial responses to reinforce their thinking around these questions and can be used to refer to later in the project. You can use the modelled example to share with the children:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who am I? My name is Jasmine, and I am 8 years old - Who are we? We are Saturn class in Hawthorne Primary School. - Where do we live? We live in Upperton near the City of Bamton in Yorkshire, in the UK, on Planet Earth. - How do we all live together? Try to draw out from the children things that help people get along together - smiling, playing games, sharing toys, enjoying food together. <p>Big question to ask children: Do you think we have all the information possible about us? If we send this information to our linking partners will that tell them everything about us? If we want to get to know someone properly we need to look beneath the surface, there is more to everyone than we can ever know by looking at them from a distance, we need to find out more about them and tell them about us and this is exactly what we will be doing on our schools linking journey.</p>