

RECIPROCITY:

The social aspects of learning; 'relating'

The capacities that make up this disposition are:

Interdependence Collaboration Empathy Listening Imitation

Collaboration

Knowing how to manage yourself in the give and take of a collaborative venture, respecting and recognising other viewpoints; adding to and drawing from the strength of teams.



How to make the most of the story;

FIRST TIME CAMPERS

In this story Jay and Milly and their mum and dad find out that you can get things done when everyone works together.

This story introduces not only the concept of collaboration but the word itself. Most children will not be unfamiliar with the concept – you talk to them about working together, taking turns, working in a group etc. – so the idea of collaboration isn't new. Here they can also meet the word in a meaningful context and appreciate that when we collaborate everyone plays a part in getting the job done.



After the story

Connecting questions

- What happened when Jay and Milly and their mum and dad arrived at the campsite?
- Who was left to get on with the job of setting up the tent?
- If they had left dad to do the jobs alone what might have happened?
- What did dad say they needed?
- What did he mean by 'collaboration'?
- Do you think they did collaborate in the end?
- Can you remember some of the jobs they had to do?
- When we collaborate we think about who can do which jobs best. What jobs could Jay do? Even his little sister Milly could help too. What did Milly do?
- Which jobs was it best for mum and dad to do?

Transferring questions

- Have you ever been camping?
- What things do you take with you?
- What jobs do you have to do to get set up when you get to the campsite?
- Talk to your partner about when you work with other people in school – what sort of things do you do?
- What does it feel like to learn in a team, with other people?
- Are you a good teamworker?
- What does a good teamworker do?
- What will you try to remember about being a good teamworker the next time you are part of a team?
- Could we make a list and display about how to be a good teamworker?

FIRST TIME CAMPERS

A story to introduce: Collaboration

Have you ever been camping? Have you ever slept in a tent in a field instead of in a bedroom, in a house, in a street? Jay had never been camping but he really wanted to. Lots of times he had asked mum and dad,

“Please can we go camping. Benji and Ella have been camping.” They were Jay’s friends and they had told him all about it.

“And so has Jimmy,” Jay would say. “He said he would ask his mum if I could go with them one day.”

Mum and dad used to say,

“Perhaps. One day maybe.”

But still they’d never done it.

One day dad came home from work.

“I’ve got a big surprise for you!”

Everyone likes surprises, well they do if they are nice surprises.

“What is it? What’s the surprise?” Jay, and even his little sister Milly were jumping up and down with excitement. They could tell it was going to be a nice surprise. Mum came into the room.

“Am I going to like this surprise?” she asked. She sounded a bit unsure, but she was smiling.

“We’re... going...camping!” Dad said it very slowly and he had a really big grin on his face.

Jay was jumping up and down again.

“Wow! Are we? When?”

“We’re going on Friday. My friend Max has said we can borrow his tent to see how we like it,” said dad.

At the end of school on Friday mum met them and they went home to change out of their school clothes and then they were off. Mum and dad had already packed everything into the car, and even on the car roof too. They’d never had things on the roof of the car before, but there are a lot of things to take when you’re going camping.

The sun was still shining when they got to the campsite and Jay thought it looked so exciting. As they drove through the gates of the campsite and along the roadway they were amazed to see some little shops, a place to eat and, best of all, a really exciting looking adventure playground. Then they saw the tent field, with lines of brightly coloured tents, some of them like small houses made of cloth. They saw people sitting outside, some of them eating



and drinking. They saw children playing in the spaces between the tents and in the corner of the field they saw a swimming pool with tables and chairs and sun umbrellas. Yes, they were really going to enjoy camping.

Dad stopped the car by an empty patch of grass next to a large blue tent, but there didn’t seem to be any people there. Jay thought that perhaps they were over at the swimming pool. Everyone piled out of the car and they all stood looking around.

“Just in case the shop shuts I’ll just pop back there so that I can buy some milk and a few other things,” said mum. “You can start getting the stuff out of the car. I won’t be long.”

“I want to come too,” said Milly.

“Go on,” said dad, “I’ll make a start at unloading.”

But mum, Milly and Jay were a bit longer than they had meant to be. Mum let them have a look around the playground so of course they had to have a few goes on the best bits. And mum decided it would be a good idea to find out where the showers were.

When they got back to dad he wasn’t looking too happy. In what had been the empty space of grass there was now a large square of cloth stretched out. By the car there were piles of bags and boxes and dad was standing, scratching his head with one hand as he looked at a piece of paper that he kept turning round and round in his other hand.

“Is that the tent?” asked Jay. “It looks a bit flat.”

“No,” said mum. “It’s got to go up. They have poles and things. Don’t you know how to do it?” she asked dad.

“I do know how to do it.” Now it was dad’s turn to sound snappy. “Max told me what to do and I’ve got this little book. What I need is a bit of collaboration.”

“Did Max forget to give you that?” Jay asked.

“Can we get some at the shop?”

Mum laughed. "No you can't buy collaboration. Anyway we've got it with us already."

"What do you need it for?" asked Jay.

"We need it to get this tent up," said dad. "It means everybody working together – like teamwork. If we work together like a team we'll get it done in no time."

"It really would be a huge job for dad on his own," said mum. "I'm sorry we took so long, but now we're here so let's get collaborating."

So dad shared out some jobs. He asked Jay to sort out the tent poles – they all had coloured bands so even Milly was able to help. They sorted the yellow and the blue and the green poles and put them in little piles. Mum and dad straightened the tent out and fitted the poles together and very soon the tent began to grow up from the ground. Milly held tent pegs for her dad to hammer into the ground to hold the little ropes. Dad told them that those little ropes and pegs kept the tent from blowing away. They were amazed to see mum and dad hang the bedrooms inside the tent so that there were separate rooms for mum and dad and for Milly and Jay and there was still plenty of space for chairs and a table and the little cooker. Jay helped dad to put up the camp beds and Milly and mum unrolled the sleeping bags.

The sun was only just beginning to set when at last everything was finished and everyone felt that their tent looked just as good as any of the tents that were already in the field. They took chairs outside the door of the tent whilst mum got them all a cool drink. Then they sat down and watched the sun as it began to sink lower in the sky.

"It's amazing what a bit of collaboration can do," said dad. "If you hadn't all come back to make up the team I don't think I would have got the tent up before it got dark."

"We're a great team," agreed mum. "And if you want something to eat before bed then let's have a bit more of that collaboration."