

Zabderfilio

Nobody for one and one for all.



Complexity



7-10 years



35 minutes



4-30



Human Rights



Discrimination

Type of activity

Storytelling, reflective activity

Overview

Children watch a puppet show about a made-up animal, and discuss the value of diversity.

Objectives

- To discuss the concept of 'All Different – All Equal'
- To reflect on the meaning of tolerance and diversity
- To understand the principle of universality

Preparation

- Practise the puppet show beforehand.
- Make a puppet to represent Zabderfilio – an animal with characteristics belonging to various different animals (or you can use the handout).

Materials

- A puppet theatre or similar arrangement
- Different animal puppets, a hunter puppet, a presenter puppet, and a Zabderfilio puppet as described in the handout

Instructions

1. Gather the children in front of the puppet theatre. Explain that they have to be quiet and stay in their seats when the puppet show is running. They should only speak when the characters ask them questions. The puppets are fragile so it's important that no-one touches them without permission.
2. Perform the puppet show. Ask the children questions regularly to make sure they are enjoying the show and so that they remain engaged with the learning objectives.

Debriefing and Evaluation

1. Discuss the activity using questions such as:
 - What happened during the story?
 - How do you feel about the story?
 - Which animal do you like the most? Which do you like least? Why?
 - Were the other animals fair towards Zabderfilio?
 - Why did they act as they did?
 - Why do you think that, in the end, the other animals became friends with Zabderfilio? (Was it because she was the strongest or best-looking, or something else?)

2. Relate the activity to human rights by asking questions such as these:
 - Can you think of a time something like this is happened in real life? Do people treat others the way the animals first treated Zabderfilio? Can you give any examples?
 - Do people often behave like this?
 - Are we all the same or are we different? In which ways are we alike? In which ways are we different?
 - What can we do to avoid some children feeling like Zabderfilio did when no-one wanted to be his friend?
 - Do you know of any children's right that addresses situations like Zabderfilio's?

Suggestions for follow-up

The children can perform this simple story with puppets themselves and put the show on for a different group of children. They could also make their own puppets and/or develop another story. Other stories in *Compasito* could also be turned into a puppet show (e.g. 'Modern Fairytale' and 'Once Upon a Time...').

Ideas for action

Ask the children to think about what it would be like if a 'Zabderfilio' joined their group. Help them to develop an internal 'code of conduct' towards each other, incorporating the need to respect each individual, irrespective of their differences. Hang the Code of Conduct in your meeting space and refer to it whenever appropriate.

Use the story in different ways: for example, ask the children to draw it, or help them turn it into a short play to be performed by the children in front of parents or others in the community. Alternatively, help them make a small animation movie using the puppets.

Tips for the facilitator

Instead of having a real puppet theatre, you can use a blanket to sit behind.

Use any animal puppets you have available. If you do not have the necessary puppets, make them using cut-out cardboard drawings. Simple colourful sock puppets are easy to make and are effective for younger children.

Adapt your Zabderfilio to suit your imagination. She might have the ears of a rabbit, the horn of a rhino, the nose and whiskers of a mouse, the mane of a lion, the pouch of a kangaroo or any other combination that fits your story. Whatever her characteristics, she needs to look weird and have at least a conspicuous nose, a loud voice and the ability to move silently. You can also adapt the story to fit a puppet you might have.

With larger groups, have a second facilitator to help with the questions and answers between the group and the puppets.

For younger children, make the debriefing shorter and more focused on how it feels to be excluded, and what it is like when someone is new to a group.

Puppet show

Scenario

Introduction: (made by a 'presenter puppet' who is not part of the story)

Presenter Puppet: Hello dear friends! Hello theatre lovers! I'm happy to see that everybody is ready to listen and watch today's special show!

Well, I can tell you already a little bit of the mystery of today. It all takes place in the world of the animals. And in that world, just like ours, not everything is beautiful and not everything is ugly, not everything is normal and not everything is weird. But – there are always surprises!

And this story is about one of these surprises. It is the story of a very special animal called Zabderfilio. Watch and listen carefully. Please stay where you are, otherwise the animals might run away and we will never know what happens at the end of the story. See you later!

The story

Summary: Zabderfilio meets different animals, one after another. Each of the animals considers Zabderfilio a very strange animal. Zabderfilio is looking for friends, but none of the animals want to be her friend because she is ... just weird! Below is an example of one of his encounters:

Giraffe: *(Comes onto the stage and talks to the children)* Hello, everybody. Do you know who I am? *(Audience: You're a giraffe.)*

Giraffe: How do you know? Am I wearing a nametag somewhere? *(Audience: Because of your long neck, your colours...)*

Giraffe: Yes, you are right! I have the longest neck of all the animals in the world! I can see a very long way, and I can eat from high trees without any great effort!

(Zabderfilio comes on stage)

Zabderfilio: *(Very friendly and eager)* Hello!

Giraffe: WOEEEEHAAA ... you scared me there for a second, sneaking up on me like that. But wait a minute, who are you?

Zabderfilio: I am Zabderfilio.

Giraffe: Zabberdabberdilooooo-what??

Zabderfilio: My name is Zabderfilio and I'm looking for friends. Do you want to be my friend?

Giraffe: Er, um... I don't know. You look very strange to me! You are not a mouse, not a lion, not a kangaroo, but you look like all of them. All my friends are one thing or the other and not a mix like you! Excuse me, but I have to go see my friends! Tee hee hee, you are really strange and ugly!

Zabderfilio: *(With hurt feelings)* But, but – wait a second ...

(Giraffe has already disappeared and Zabderfilio talks now to the audience.)

Zabderfilio: This makes me sad. Why didn't Giraffe want to be my friend? Well, let me walk a little bit longer in the forest and see if I meet any other animals to play with.

None of the animals Zabderfilio meets wants to be her friend. After several encounters, a hunter comes on stage. He is hunting animals. Every time one of the animals comes on stage, the hunter tries to grab it, but they all run away, screaming for help.

Then the hunter disappears, off to look in the forest for the animals. Zabderfilio reappears. She asks the audience what all this noise was about.

After the audience explains what has happened, Zabderfilio uses her mouse-nose to sniff out the hunter ('Aha, with my keen nose I can smell a hunter nearby!'), her cat-feet to walk without any noise ('I think I can use my cat-feet to sneak up on him!') and her lion-scream to scare the hunter away ('And now I'm going to use my huge voice to roar like a lion and frighten him away. ROAR!').

After this heroic deed, the other animals come closer and apologise for their nasty behaviour. They all ask her to be their friend, and Zabderfilio gladly accepts. All the animals say goodbye to the audience and the 'presenting-puppet' appears to make the final comments.

Conclusion

Presenter Puppet: Well, dear friends! That was the story of Zabderfilio. Did you enjoy it?

She certainly was a funny looking beast! But she was able to help her friends because she had so many different useful qualities. Next time you see someone who looks a little unusual, I hope you think of Zabderfilio. That person may have talents you never dreamed of and make a wonderful friend.



Handout

Sample Zabderfilio

