

LESSON 5

LEVEL: Junior Primary

VALUE: LOVE

RELATED VALUE: Appreciation

OBJECTIVE: To inspire the love and appreciation of nature.

QUOTATION *Nature is the best teacher.*

TEACHER:

Explain to the children the caring ways of nature. For example birds, fish and animals always care for their eggs or babies. Trees give shelter to birds and shade to people. The sun gives warmth and life to the earth. Many things about nature are a teacher if this is pointed out to the children as they progress in their nature studies.

SILENT SITTING:

Sit quietly with eyes closed:

Listen to hear if you can hear any sounds of nature. If there aren't any sounds you can now pretend to hear birds chirping.....now the leaves rustling in the wind. Pretend you are a dolphin gliding in the water. Open your eyes and blink your eyelids for a few seconds.

STORY:

NICOLA'S FAVOURITE DOLPHIN



Nicola and her family went to the dolphin beach in Western Australia every year for their holidays. They stayed in a holiday hut that was close to the ocean. Every day the dolphins swam up to the edge of the water to greet the waiting crowd who were standing knee deep at the edge of the water waiting for them. The dolphins would swim in three or four times a day.

The volunteer workers had fish ready to be fed to the dolphins. These volunteers also saw to it that no one did anything to harm them. They were mostly dolphins that had been injured at some time and had not been able to catch their own food.

The volunteers walked along the edge of the waiting crowd and chose a few people along the line to give a fish to the dolphins. Nicola would anxiously wait hoping to be one of those who would be chosen. The volunteers had to know her and her love of the dolphins and to Nicola's delight she would be chosen quite often.

Nicola loved all the dolphins but she had a favourite one. Each dolphin had been given a name, and the one called Nicky because it had some nicks on its back had become Nicola's

favourite. Nicola was called Nicky for short and when she found out her favourite dolphin had the same name, she felt they had a special connection. She even imagined that Nicky the dolphin knew they had the same name and that was why it would swim up to her first before swimming along the line of the other dolphin lovers.

One year when it was nearly time for the family to go to their usual holiday place Nicola was excited as usual because she would see the dolphins again and feel the special joy when Nicky would come to greet her. However, this particular year there was no sign of Nicky; Nicola was heartbroken, she had all sorts of fears as to what might have happened to it. Maybe she had been entangled in one of those awful dragnets that the fishermen put out. Or maybe it had been attacked by a shark. The volunteers who hated to see her so upset tried to reassure her. They told her that sharks don't normally attack dolphins and that maybe it would return soon to its group called a pod.

Each day of her holiday Nicola tried the best she could to enjoy the other dolphins, but she couldn't help feeling sad.

On the last day of their holiday, Nicola watched the dolphins come to greet them as usual. Nicola gave a sudden gasp. Nicky had returned and was swimming towards her. Nicola was overcome with joy, and then with tears in her eyes she spotted a tiny baby dolphin. Nicky had been busy giving birth and had proudly brought her baby to show Nicola and all the other people what a clever dolphin she was.



Nicola's mother had taken a photograph of Nicky and her baby, Nicky took the photo to school so she could tell her story and show the photo at 'news time'. She then put it into a frame, which she put by the side of her bed and looked forward to her next visit when she hoped she would see Nicky and the baby again. "I wonder what its name will be" she thought.

The End

QUESTIONS;

How did you feel when Nicky didn't come with the other dolphins?

How did you feel when Nicola spotted Nicky with its baby?

What did Nicola think had happened to Nicky?

What was the reason for Nicky getting its name?

Do you like dolphins? If so why?

Why did the dolphins need to be hand fed?

What is the name for a group of dolphins?

Why did volunteers need to be there when the dolphins came in.?

What did Nicola do with the photograph her mother took of Nicky and its baby?

Have you ever seen a dolphin?

ACTIVITIES:-

DRAWING

A picture or a drawing of dolphin is needed for the children to copy.

A drawing of a dolphin can be made in four stages.

1. Look carefully at the shape of the dolphin's body. (You can practice first on a piece of scrap paper)
2. Next look at the shape of the tail and add it on to the body.
3. Then add the fins.
4. Now add its mouth and eye.

When the drawing is finished, you might like to add to the picture by drawing the sea and the sky or even a line of people at the edge of the sea. (You could ask your teacher how to draw stick figures.)

Colour the picture and write a sentence underneath. The teacher can write up a few sentences that have been chosen by the children. The children can then choose one for them to copy at the bottom of their picture.

POEM

THE HAPPY DOLPHIN

I'm a happy little dolphin swimming in the sea.

Some people on a boat are calling out to me.

I jump and dive amongst the waves and turn a mighty flip

The people laugh and clap, so I take another dip.

When they think I've gone I jump high into the sky'

"Wow" they all shout, so happy they could cry.

It's time for me to go now I'm sorry I cannot stay.

But I love to show you all my tricks so I'll be back another day.

(This could have hand action drawings for the children to do at the end of each line)

CLOSURE

Practise the poem in your mind after the session has finished.

Source: Jacqui Robinson 2014: Junior Primary