



Understanding homelessness

Activity 3-b

The following activities all relate to teaching children of all ages about what having a home means. In order for them to begin to understand what it means to be without a home, they must first define what a home is.

If you are doing this activity as a group, you will need to take the following into consideration.

- It is important to be sensitive to the varying definitions of home within the group.
- It is important to know the home situations of each of the participating children prior to beginning of this activity.
- Do you have a child who is or has been homeless? Do you have a child in the group who has lost a home to a fire?
- Don't assume that having a child with this reality is a reason not to teach this activity. Instead, a child who has been through the experience of not having a home can be a wonderful asset to teaching other children about what this experience is like.

Desired Outcomes:

- Children will further develop their understanding of cause and effect relationships, particularly as they relate to helping others.

Background:

Children will benefit from a question and answer session with someone who works with people who are un-housed. Many times, children will simply want to ask questions about what it is like to work with those who don't have a home and what it is like to be without a home.

Preparation Time:

enough time to contact and arrange for a visitor from Pathways to come and talk to a group, or set up an individual tour.

Time:

one hour

Materials needed:

- self portraits made by each child to give away

Basic Objective:

A child or children will be introduced to Pathways of Hope.

Processing:

1. Have the child or children's group write questions to prepare for their visit.
2. Make sure the child understands that just because someone doesn't have a home, it doesn't mean they have a family.
3. The child can give the self-portrait to the representative of Pathways and they will make sure it gets to children at the shelter.

Source: <http://www.unitedwayla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Facing-Homelessness-Curriculum.pdf>



Pathways of Hope
Rebuilding Lives of the Hungry and Homeless

