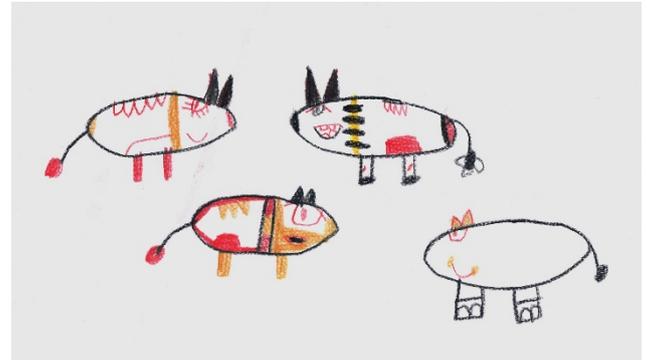


# I care about — Compassion

## EXPLANATION:

Compassion means we care about others and treat them with kindness. Talking about what children care about and why they care assists in building understandings about compassion and motivate action in authentic caring ways. In this activity children will be prompted to think about the range of things that make them feel compassionate and caring towards.



**YEAR LEVELS:** Prior to school

**STUDENT GROUPING:** Group discussion and individual creations

**ACTIVITY LENGTH:** 20 mins plus individual time to create pictures

## LINK TO CURRICULUM:

### Early Years Learning Framework:

#### Learning Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

- 1.2 Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency.
- 1.4 Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.

#### Learning Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- 2.1 Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation.
- 2.2 Children respond to diversity with respect.
- 2.3 Children become aware of fairness.
- 2.4 Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.

#### Learning Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

- 3.1 Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing.

#### Learning Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

- 4.1 Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity.

## SCOPE OF TASK:

Compassion means we **care about others**, treat them with kindness, and feel a strong desire to help people in need. Compassion is empathy in action. For a six-year-old, compassion might look like giving a hug, making a card, or saying something kind to help a friend or family member who is feeling sad or upset. People can feel compassion not just for people but for the environment and animals. For example, compassion can be felt for an sick animal or drought ravaged land. It is about caring about others and things and behaving toward them with affection, generosity, and concern.

1. During group time discuss with children concepts associated with care. Question them:
  - What does it mean to care?
  - What can you care about?
  - Why should we care about things?
  - Why is it important to show others you care?
2. Inform children about the activity they are going to engage in: drawing the person, thing or animal that they really care about and writing a reason as to why the care about it. During the session each child can conference with the teacher/adult about the picture they are going to make. Steps to engage in the activity include:
  - Each child to conference with the teacher or adult/parent about what they care about
  - Together the adult and child identify the thing that they want to draw about and write it on the worksheet (example below)
  - Together the reasons that they care can be discussed and then scribed onto the worksheet
  - The child takes their paper and draws or creates the picture of the thing they care about
3. At the completion of the activity time bring the children back together to discuss their pictures. Sitting in a circle each child can share their creation and what they care about and the reasons. During the sharing time reflect on care and compassion and similarities between what we care about and the differences.

**Children's creations can be displayed in a front foyer for families and visitors to view or photos of the children's work can be shared with parents and caregivers so they can reinforce concepts of compassion and care in the home.**

## RESOURCES:

- Worksheet (or teacher/student created version)
- Paints, crayons or collage materials



**My name is  
I care about  
Because**

