



grandparents & older friends

a social studies and language unit for the junior school

curriculum strands:

Social Studies

- **Social Organisation**
- **Culture and Heritage**
- **Time, Continuity and Change**

English

- **speaking, listening, presenting, reading, writing**

Levels 1-2

Teacher Notes

The Context for this Study

The context for this unit is the family and extended family leading to an understanding of how they fit into the school community.

Main Ideas to be Developed

- Manaki - the passing on of experiences and knowledge from one generation to another.
- Aroha - developing a concern for the feelings of others and caring for others.

Some Knowledge and Understandings

- Who are our Grandparents?
- Simple understandings of a family tree.
- Many changes have taken place over the years: schooling, music, food.....
- There are many different types of families.

Feelings and Values to Share and Develop

- Understanding of others and their points of view.
- A caring for the environment.
- A concern for others leading to offering help and assistance.

The Main Resources we will Use

- The experiences of our children.
- The experiences of our parents and grandparents.
- The experiences of our teachers.

Getting Started

- Have the children search magazines and cut out pictures of people of different ages such as a baby, school child, teenager, parent, grandparent.
- As a class, sort the pictures out and order them from youngest to oldest. Have groups of children paste them onto charts in chronological order and add captions.

ACTIVITY ONE

Who Makes Up Our Family?

- Discuss terms such as grandfather, grandmother, sister, brother, father, mother, uncle.... to help the children develop an

understanding of their meanings.

- Discuss the meaning of family and how a family is made up. Be aware that this will have to be approached with sensitivity as the stereotyped view of mum and dad with two children is unlikely to match the experiences of many children. This leads to the understanding that there are many different types of families.

ACTIVITY TWO

What Can a Baby Do and Not Do?

- Ask the children to bring something from home that they used to have when they were a baby. This might be a bottle, picture, toy, clothing....
- Have the children explain the purposes of each article and how they felt about them.
- Make class charts of tasks and activities a baby can do and can not do. Illustrate the chart with pictures painted by the children and add captions such as - 'When I was a baby I could.....' 'When I was a baby I could not.....'

ACTIVITY THREE

Who Helped Us Then and Now?

- As a class discussion pose the question - "When you were a baby, what did you need help with? List the answers from the children.
- Pose the questions:
 - **Who helped you and how did they help? List the answers.**
 - **When you were a little older and could walk, what did you still need help with? Who helped you?**
 - **What do you still need help with now? Who helps you?**
- From the discussion have the children make and illustrate a **Helping Chart**.
- Try to bring out the idea that children needed/need help from their families, their teachers and their peers.
- Make a list of ways the children can help other classmates.

ACTIVITY FOUR

What Names Do We Call Our Family?

- Read some books to the children:
 - **'Nana's in the Plum Tree'**
 - **'Helpers' - 'Grandpa' - 'Nana'**
- Make this a shared reading experience and build up a list of names for grandparents and older members of the family. Many children will call relations by different names.
- Ask the children to take home a simple family tree to fill in, starting if possible with grandparents and ending up with themselves.
- Display the family tree and discuss.
- Have the children paint portraits of their grandparents and older friends and then write simple captions to go with the portraits.

ACTIVITY FIVE

Songs Old and New

- Have the children ask their grandparents/older friends and parents what songs they used to sing at school. Learn and sing some of these songs.
 - **Knees up Mother Brown**
 - **You are my Sunshine**
 - **Wiata Poi...**
- If possible, invite grandparents/extended family to come down and teach the children one of their 'old' favourite songs.
- Learn some modern songs to sing on Grandparents/Older Friends Day.

ACTIVITY SIX

School Today and Yesterday

- Ask the children to find out where their grandparents and parents, uncles and aunties, went to school.
- Invite several grandparents and family adults to the school and have ready a list of questions that the children can ask to find out how school was different in those days.
- Find out if children used electronic keyboards, tape recorders, big books, overhead projectors, listening posts in those times.
- Find out how they travelled to school.
- Find out what clothes they wore.
- If possible, have the children bring photographs to school to discuss the differences then and now. Find old school photographs.
- Make a big class wall picture/mural showing how school was different many years ago and how school is now.
- Children can write stories and poems and paint pictures about how school was different in our grandparents days.

ACTIVITY SEVEN

Grandparents/Older Friends Day

- Plan a Grandparents/Older Friends Day for the class/school.
- Have the children write and illustrate exciting invitations to grandparents and extended family. Send out the invitations well in advance as some guests may want to come from all over the country especially for the day.
- Decide on how you will welcome the grandparents/older friends. This can lead to a simple mihi mihi of welcome.
- Discuss the importance of manners and act these out with each other.
- Grandparents day could be held from 11.00 to 1.00pm.

GRANDPARENTS/OLDER FRIENDS DAY PROGRAMME

- Mihi mihi
- Showing the grandparents/older friends around the school and classroom.

Have the children explain the class routines.

- Have displays of children's work for them to see.
- Read 'Grandpa's Slippers' to the children and Grandparents and have Grandparents help the children make the slippers.
- Some Grandparents may show the children things that they used to do at school.
- Bring food for the shared lunch with the grandparents.
- Serve the grandparents/friends with lunch.
- Sing songs to the grandparents/friends and if possible have them sing songs to the children.
- Take plenty of photographs of the day.
- Don't forget to involve the children in the planning of the day. They will have many excellent ideas.

CULMINATING ACTIVITIES

- Make a large class book called Grandparents/Older Friends Day with stories, captions, poems, photographs, drawings and paintings. Use it for shared reading with the class throughout the year.
- Draw and display concluding statements that re-enforce attitudes, understandings, feelings, knowledge and values developed by this unit. These could take the form of captions on a mural or display made with all the art work produced during the unit. eg
 - **Life is easier in families when we help and care for one another**
 - **We can help each other by.....**

evaluation:

Social Studies Evaluation

- **can the students explain who are the members of their extended families?**
- **are the students able to identify how family members help each other?**
- **are the students able to show understanding that there are many different types of families?**
- **can the students identify different ways that school life has changed since their grandparents were at school?**
- **can the students give examples of how music, clothes and games have changed since their grandparent's went to school?**

English Evaluation

- **are the students able to converse and talk about their personal experiences in a class and group situation?**
- **can the students present information with clarity and confidence for an audience?**
- **can the students identify and contribute to a list of questions that will provide information they require?**