

# EMPTY CHAIR

## Recognising a different perspective

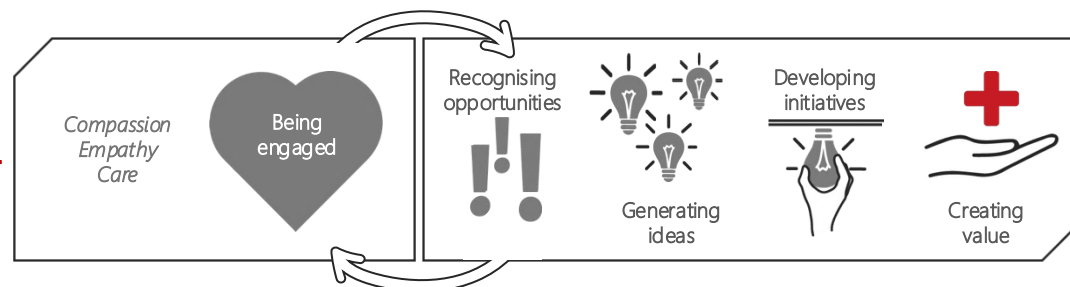
age 4 - 6

age 7 - 9

age 10 - 12



20 min



### SUITABLE

- To take a different perspective.
- To develop empathy for another perspective.
- To tailor initiatives to the needs and wishes of the target audience.

### TIPS

- For very young children, use a doll, photo, etc. as a character.
- The character can be anything, e.g. an animal, an object, etc.
- Sometimes you have to ask several questions before one of the children dares to answer.

### MATERIALS

Chair, possibly a doll/photo/...

### STEP 1

Prepare an empty chair covered with a cloth. Have the children sit in a semi-circle in front of the empty chair.

### STEP 2

Reread the story or recount the actual event that prompted the challenge you want to tackle with the class. If necessary, use the THINKING LINE working method to repeat the process with the children.

### STEP 3

Tell the children that a certain character from the story is coming to visit the class. Pull the cloth off the empty chair. Welcome the 'special guest'. Have the imaginary visitor sit on the chair and introduce him to the children.

### STEP 4

Let the children ask the visitor questions about what the challenge and their actions mean, or do this yourself if necessary. Let a child who wants to answer the question stand behind the chair and answer. Demonstrate the procedure in advance. Supplement the children's answers by standing behind the chair yourself if necessary. For young children, have the character (puppet, photo, etc.) answer the questions and/or use props to help them empathise. Stick situation cards on the back of the chair to support the children.

### STEP 5

End the conversation when there are no more questions. Say goodbye to the guest. Put the cloth back over the chair and put the chair away.

Source: -



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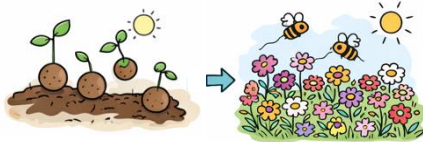
**sociaal  
ondernemen  
in de klas**

# Example

## EMPTY CHAIR

### Context

It is spring and we are learning about nature. The teacher reads a story about bees (e.g. Klimaatjes - Blij met een bij), but leaves out the end of the story for now. The children hear that the bees are having trouble finding flowers and are struggling to survive. The teacher also explains that by visiting flowers, bees do more than just produce delicious honey. Bees and other insects also provide many things that we buy in shops. With the help of the class puppet, the children come up with some ideas for helping the bees. They make seed bombs\* and throw them onto seed beds in the school garden.



### STEP 1

Prepare an empty chair with a cloth over it. Have the children sit in a semi-circle.

### STEP 2

Reread the story that prompted the challenge you want to take on with the class. If necessary, use the THINKING LINE working method.

### STEP 3

Tell the children that Bieke, the bee from the story, is coming to visit the class. Welcome Bieke. Place a doll with striped fabric and paper wings on the chair and introduce her to the children.

### STEP 4

Let the children ask questions or ask Bieke yourself about what the challenge and their actions mean to her. Let a child who knows the answer to the question sit behind the chair and answer using situation cards. Supplement the children's answers by standing behind the chair yourself or let Bieke answer if necessary.

- *How do you feel when there are not enough flowers? → Very sad. Without flowers, I am hungry and cannot feed the young bees, so there are fewer and fewer bees.*
- *What do you think of the seed bombs we threw in the school garden? → How nice, they will provide lots of flowers in the spring, making it easier for me to find food.*
- *Do others also like it when there are more flowers? → Yes, flowers make gardens more beautiful, but they are also important for farmers. The farmer's plants need to be visited by us bees, otherwise no fruit and vegetables can grow. The farmer earns his money by selling fruit and vegetables. So it's very important to him.*
- ...

### STEP 5

End the conversation when there are no more questions. Say goodbye to Bieke. Put the cloth back over the chair and put the chair away.

*\*see the back of the Manual on the website under Methods*

