

Circle time activity starters

Use these activities at the start or end of any PSHCE lesson.

Partner sharing

Sit children in a circle and ask them to share with the person next to them one place in London that they might like to visit and why?

'The Last Time I'

One child stands in the middle of the circle and makes the statement 'The last time I...' and then finishes the sentence with an example of the last time they went on a journey.

For example:

'The last time I went on a bus I travelled with my granny.'

'The last time I went on a cycle ride I remembered to wear my helmet.'

'The last time I used my free bus travel pass I visited my friends.'

If anyone else in the circle did the same thing they change places. The last person to find a free space becomes the child in the middle and has to think of a new statement.

Follow my journey

Ask the children to sit back to back with a partner. Label one of the partners A and one B. Provide each child with a tube/bus/tram map. The aim of this game is to encourage children to give clear directions and navigate their way around a map. Child A's role is to describe a journey from a set starting destination (can be named) to a set end

destination (should not be named) and Child B's role is to follow the journey described and guess the end destination.

For example you may ask them to use the tube map to describe the journey from Westminster to Paddington. So child A might say: 'Take the Jubilee line three stops westbound to a large interchange station. Then change lines and take the Bakerloo line westbound three stops to a national rail station. Where am I?' You can put restrictions on this game to make it as easy or hard as you like.

Last man standing

Allow the children to look at a tube/bus/tram/river map for a brief period of time. Ask them to try and memorise as many stations/stops as possible in the allocated time. Encourage them to visualise the map as they are thinking. Then ask the children to stand in a circle facing inwards, removing the map from sight. Tell the children you are going to try and name as many stops as possible as a class. Go around the circle and each child has to name a station/stop. If they pause, 'erm' or hesitate before replying they are out and have to sit down. A station/stop is not allowed to be mentioned more than once. The game continues until you have one child left standing. Keep a record of how many the class can remember. The children will love trying to improve on their previous score and trying to succeed in being the last man standing!