



Challenge Poverty Week Lesson for Primary 1-3

2 - 8 October 2023

Timing

45m – 1h

Learning objectives

Students will be able to:

- Understand that some people in Scotland have less than others
- Describe what we all need to be happy
- Identify ways we can show kindness to ensure everyone has enough to be happy



Get involved

In our society, we believe in showing compassion towards others, and helping and protecting each other from harm. Yet right now, many people in Scotland are living in the grip of poverty. We share a moral responsibility to ensure that everyone in our country has a decent standard of living. It is not right that a fifth of people in Scotland - including one in four children - are living in poverty.

See facts and figures sheet for further information.

Adapt the lesson plan as you see fit. For P1 children you may wish to complete Activity 1 and leave out Activity 2. For P3 children you might decide to discuss the first activity but expand upon different areas using the provided materials, such as Anna or Sam's Story.



Opening (5 minutes)

“Today we are going to think about what we need to be happy. What makes me happy is... a warm home, my favourite meal and watching something I enjoy on TV. Turn and talk to a partner: What do you need to be happy?”

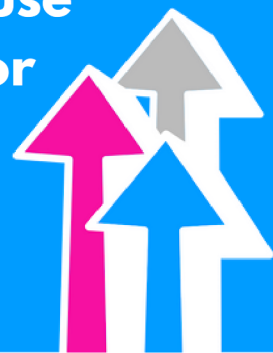
After the children have spoken to a partner, allow a few students to share their ideas with the class. It is important to treat these needs as equally valid.

Activity 1 : What makes us happy?

(15 min)

Show the children the slide depicting the images.

“Here are pictures showing lots of different things that might make people happy. I want you to think carefully about which of these things make you happy. You can choose as many as you want. You might pick eating delicious, healthy meals but also choose football because you wouldn’t be happy if you couldn’t play or watch football with your friends!”



Discussion (10 min)

Bring the children back together to share some of their choices.

“Who else chose ____? Did anyone pick something different? Why do these things make you happy? Turn and talk to a partner: How would you feel if you didn’t have these?”

Allow children time to share their feelings with the rest of the class, then explain: “Some things that make us happy are different because we all have different hobbies and likes and dislikes. Some things we all need to be happy, like a warm home and enough food and the chance to play. These are your rights, and the rights of every child in the world.

You can use the slide linking to the UN Rights of the Child to expand upon this and link to the relevant articles if desired.





“However, some people in Scotland don’t have everything they need to live a happy life. This is because of not having enough money. This is called poverty.”

For older children, you may wish to read out Anna’s or Sam’s Story to initiate a discussion about different ways people can find themselves pulled into poverty.

“If everyone in society is compassionate and kind, then we can make sure everyone has enough to be happy.”



Activity 2: How can we help everyone be happy? (15 min)

Introduce the slide for Activity 2, showing different ways we can make sure people have enough to be happy. If you do not have access to the PowerPoint, talk through the suggested examples which are:

- Healthy food being cheaper**
- Buses being free so everyone can afford to travel**
- Free playgroups for every child**
- Homes being cheaper to keep warm.**

Model choosing one idea and creating a poster to display this idea. Talk the children through the different options before asking them to create a poster. The children might want to use an idea from the PowerPoint or think of their own.



Plenary (2 minutes)

Give the children time to share their posters with a partner. Ask them to tell you one thing they have learnt today. They might wish to share this with a family member or a friend at the end of the day.

We would love to see your posters shared on social media using the #ChallengePoverty and #CPW23 hashtags, and tag @CPW_Scotland.



Facts and figures sheet for teachers

- 1 million people in Scotland are living in the grip of poverty.
- Almost 1 in 4 children (230,000) are locked in poverty in Scotland. Young people being brought up in poverty are more likely to suffer poor physical health, struggle at school and have a higher chance of experiencing unemployment and poverty in later life.
- 150,000 pensioners live in poverty in Scotland. This means they face decisions such as heating their homes or feeding themselves.

What is Challenge Poverty Week?

Challenge Poverty Week runs from 2nd - 8th October 2023

It is a week of activities and events that provides everyone across Scotland with the opportunity to raise their voices against poverty and show what needs to be done to tackle poverty across Scotland.



The aims of Challenge Poverty Week are to:

- **Show the reality of poverty in Scotland and challenge stereotypes**
- **Highlight and showcase the solutions to poverty**
- **Increase public support for the action to solve poverty**

What is poverty?

Poverty means not being able to cover your rent, pay your bills or buy the essentials that we all need. It means living an uncertain and insecure life and being forced into impossible decisions about money. It means facing barriers to getting your voice heard in society and can mean being stigmatised for having less than others. It can mean that people are deprived from the opportunities open to others and can prevent them from playing a full part in society.

How many people are living in poverty in Scotland? Over 1 million people are living in the grip of poverty in Scotland, including 230,000 (around 1 in 4) children. The number of people living in poverty in Scotland is projected to increase in the coming years.





Why are so many people in Scotland living in poverty?

Poverty has increased in Scotland – and across the UK – in recent years. This has been due to cuts in social security, low and stagnating wages, and rising living costs.

How can poverty in Scotland be solved?

Poverty can be solved by boosting incomes (through ensuring all workers are paid at least the real Living Wage and through investing more in social security) and by reducing costs like housing, childcare and transport.





Case studies

Sam's story

Sam is 8 years old. He lives in Inverness with his mum and his younger sister. Sam's mum works in a shop and has worked there since before Sam and his younger sister were born. She likes working in the shop, but isn't paid much money and she finds it difficult to buy all of the things that Sam and his sister need like school shoes, healthy food and books so they can practice reading. Sam's mum doesn't have a car, and she gets a bus to get to work. Sometimes, the bus is late and Sam's mum is late for work. When this happens, she gets paid even less money. Sam and his sister love spending time with their mum but some weekends they don't see her at all, and they stay at their grandparents' house, because she has to work on Saturday and Sunday. Sometimes, when the shop isn't busy their mum doesn't work at all and she stays at home with them. But that means that she doesn't get paid, which makes her worried and upset.

Sam wants his mum to be paid more so that she worries less, and he wants her to only work when he is at school so that he can see her at the weekends.





Anna's story

Anna is 9 years old. She lives in Glasgow with her mum, dad and two brothers. Anna's mum and dad have both always had jobs, but last year Anna's mum became very ill and she could no longer work. Because she was so ill, Anna's dad also had to give up work so that he could stay at home and look after her mum. Anna's grandparents now give her mum and dad a little bit of money to help them, but life is very difficult for Anna and her family.

They can't afford to fix things that have broken in their home, and they find it difficult to buy all the food that Anna and her two brothers need every day. In winter, they sometimes keep their jackets on in the house because Anna's parents don't have enough money to turn the heating on for very long. Because of this, Anna and her brothers can often feel very sad. Her friends at school often get new toys and go on trips with their families, but Anna's parents find it very difficult to afford presents and trips. They love Anna and her brothers very much and wish that they had more money to buy them everything that they need.

