

Teaching: Making a difference

*Be a Star,
be a Friend!*

3-5-year-olds

Play the game. Tidy up.

Prepare for this activity before the students enter the classroom. Take certain items out of their usual place in the classroom and put them in the wrong place.

For example, take crayons out of the pot, books out of the bookshelf and scatter toys on the floor.

When the children come in, give them some time to notice that the classroom is in disorder and see if they spontaneously decide to clear up. If they do, let them organise themselves to get on with the task.

If they don't, suggest that they tidy up.

Say *'Look at the books! Where do the books go?'*

Congratulate the children when they have finished and show how pleased you are that they have made the classroom look good again.

6-9-year-olds

Make an action plan.

With the students, think of the different areas of the school and then make a chart on the board like this:

	I like	I don't like	Action plan!
<i>Our classroom</i>			
<i>The playground</i>			
<i>The bathrooms</i>			
<i>The canteen</i>			

Now have them discuss the things which they think are good about each area and the things which they think need changing. As they call out what they like and don't like, complete the chart with their ideas.

Now help them to think of how they could improve the things that they don't like. Are there actions which they could do themselves? Might they need help with the actions? Could they involve students in other classes?

Examples of simple actions:

Pick up litter in the playground.

Make new posters for the classroom.

Bring some flowers for the classroom.

Ask for more fruit in the canteen.

Ask other students to keep the bathrooms clean.

Then have them choose and implement one of the action plans.

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10–12-year-olds

Change starts with you.

With the students, think of the small things in their daily lives which make their own lives better, such as having a tidy bedroom, doing their homework on time, being kind to people and animals. Then make a chart like this on the board.

Ask the students to read out the questions and then have everyone give honest answers and put ticks in the boxes, one for each student.

Do you...	always	sometimes	never
<i>Make your bed?</i>			
<i>Tidy your room?</i>			
<i>Do your homework?</i>			
<i>Help with the housework?</i>			
<i>Help elderly people?</i>			
<i>Say thank you to people who help you?</i>			
<i>Show kindness towards animals?</i>			
<i>Appreciate nature?</i>			
<i>Try to save water?</i>			
<i>Try to save electricity?</i>			

Once you have the results, discuss if they think they need to change some things about themselves. Share ideas and let the students make suggestions.

For example:

You could do one hour of housework every Saturday.

You could switch off your phone after six o'clock in the evening.

You could turn off the tap while you brush your teeth.

You could thank the school bus driver every day.

This activity helps students realise that making the world a better place starts with them being responsible, helpful and kind. It also practises daily routines, adverbs and suggestions.