

# UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE ROLE PLAY

## ROLE PLAY GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

This 'Understanding and Getting on with People Role Play' is a fun and inclusive home or school activity for a group of KS1 or KS2 children. This role play helps children understand, discuss and learn:

- the importance of first impressions
- listening skills and empathy
- how conversations can make people feel and affect perceptions of themselves friendship-building
- the role of body language and confidence
- friendship-building
- These role plays are designed to engage the entire group or class.

For each role-play you should first seek or nominate two volunteers for the role-plays, while the rest of the group or class are tasked to observe and make notes on **what made communication easy or difficult**, together with any **lessons learned**.

Then after each role-play, you can then facilitate discussion on:

- What made communication easy or difficult?
- Which person they felt most comfortable with and why?
- What helped build trust or friendship?
- How body language affected the conversation?
- What could they do differently?

Encourage everyone in the group to answer, and include everyone over the three role plays. Reassure them that everyone's view is equally important, and valid.



# UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE ROLE PLAY CONT.

## ROLE PLAY SUMMARY

There are three role plays, each requiring two participants (person A and person B). The children do not need to know the pretext or set-up behind the role plays. This is part of the fun, and learning both for them, and the observers.

For each of the role plays, you give one child the person A role play brief and the other the person B brief. These are described on the following pages.

### **Role Play 1: “The Shy Person”**

### **Role Play 2: “The Self-Centred Conversation”**

### **Role Play 3: “Building a Friendship”**

After each role play, ask questions of the observer group to help reveal key learning points:

- What made communication easy or difficult?
- Which person they felt most comfortable with and why?
- What helped build trust or friendship?
- How body language affected the conversation?
- What could they do differently?

## KEY LEARNING POINTS

People think differently about people and good relationships happen when people:

- listen carefully
- ask questions
- use their ears and voice in balance
- show kindness
- make others feel included
- avoid judging too quickly
- try to understand feelings

Just like Spid learns *in Spid the Spider Meets Count Spidula*, people are not always what they first seem.



# UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE ROLE PLAY 1

## BRIEF FOR PERSON A

### ROLE PLAY 1:

**Aim:** To show how patience, kindness and gentle questions can help someone feel comfortable.

### PERSON A INSTRUCTIONS

You are meeting someone new and want to get to know them kindly.

- Smile
- Speak gently
- Ask simple questions
- Be patient
- Try to include the other person

### SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- What games do you like?
- What's your favourite food?
- What do you enjoy doing at weekends?
- Tell me something about you I don't know?



# UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE ROLE PLAY I

## BRIEF FOR PERSON B

### ROLE PLAY I:

### PERSON B INSTRUCTIONS

You act a little shy and nervous, perhaps you are new to the area.

- Avoid eye contact
- Speak very quietly
- Give very short answers
- Be unsure about shaking hands
- Shrug shoulders
- Take time before answering

### EXAMPLE ANSWERS:

- “Maybe.”
- “Football.”
- “I don’t know.”
- “A bit.”



# UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE ROLE PLAY 2

## BRIEF FOR PERSON A

ROLE PLAY 2:

### PERSON A INSTRUCTIONS

- Try to have a normal friendly conversation.



# UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE ROLE PLAY 2

## BRIEF FOR PERSON B

### ROLE PLAY 2:

### PERSON B INSTRUCTIONS

You act:

- unsmiling
- boastful
- slightly bossy
- self-centred
- uninterested in others

You can/should:

- give a slightly too-hard handshake
- interrupt
- talk mostly about yourself
- avoid asking questions
- try to sound important

### EXAMPLE PHRASES:

- “I’m the best at football.”
- “Everyone says I’m brilliant.”
- “I already knew that.”
- “Anyway, enough about you...”
- “I’ve got much better things than that.”



# UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE ROLE PLAY 3

## BRIEF FOR PERSON A

### ROLE PLAY 3:

#### PERSON A INSTRUCTIONS

You are meeting for the first time and want to get to know someone.

You should:

- smile
- listen carefully
- ask questions
- show interest
- take turns speaking
- encourage each other

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS:

- hobbies
- pets
- favourite books
- holidays
- music
- sports
- dreams for the future



# UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE ROLE PLAY 3

## BRIEF FOR PERSON A

### ROLE PLAY 3:

### PERSON B INSTRUCTIONS

You are meeting someone for the first time and want to get to know them.

You should:

- smile
- listen carefully
- ask questions
- show interest
- take turns speaking
- encourage each other

### SUGGESTED TOPICS:

- hobbies
- pets
- favourite books
- holidays
- music
- sports
- dreams for the future

