

English Lesson Plan

This plan contains tailored activities for KS2 English lessons. These are to be used alongside your curriculum as a way to improve students understanding of the effects of brain injury.

If your school has adopted us as your charity of the year or is having fundraising events to support The Children's Trust, then these activities can help students learn more about what they are fundraising for and how their efforts make a difference.

Lesson: KS2 English

Lesson duration: 60 Minutes

Objectives:

- For students to grasp a basic understanding of brain injury and how it effects your ability to communicate.
- To learn basic Makaton introductions so that they can communicate with children of all abilities in the future.
- For students to be able to consider how their lives would change upon experiencing brain injury. They must consider how their daily lives would be interrupted and how they would learn to adapt.

Lesson Plan

Warm up: 10 min

Using our official Makaton guide (found in the link attached with this lesson plan), get the students to learn how to introduce themselves using Makaton (this introduction should include their name, a greeting and a question).

Some of our children are left unable to speak after acquiring a brain injury and often use Makaton (a variation of British Sign Language) to communicate with staff and their families. This task is about teaching children to communicate with others that do not use the language in the same way that they do.

Here is a handy introductory video to explain Makaton in more detail:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/something-special-getting-started-with-makaton>

Introduction to The Children's Trust: 10 min

- The Children's Trust is the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury and neurodisability. Our aim is to ensure that children and families affected by brain injury are able to live their best lives possible.

- Every year 40,000 children in the UK are left with a brain injury as a result of an accident or illness and it can be devastating – they may no longer be able to walk, talk, stand, sit, or feed themselves – sometimes all of these abilities.
- At The Children’s Trust, we aim to help rebuild as many of their skills as possible, as well as their self-esteem. A child’s confidence is central to that relearning.
- We help children do this through play, exploration, laughter and having fun; things that are often absent when a child has limited mobility or has had a challenging time. By combining music, singing, arts and crafts, day trips and other activities, with therapy, healthcare and education, children do not focus on what they cannot do, they just do it and have fun.
- The Children's Trust runs a range of specialist care, education and therapy services for children and young people from across the UK, including the UK's largest rehabilitation centre for children with acquired brain injury, which is based in Tadworth.
- Brain injury is a commonly misunderstood area and through our work and informational offerings like the brain injury hub, we are trying to better educate the public on the realities of life with brain injury and how cutting edge therapy and rehabilitation can change the life of a child.

If you need any further information, please visit <https://www.braininjuryhub.co.uk/>

Main activity 1: 20 mins

Word Tennis:

- Divide the class into pairs. Each pair will play the game between them. Explain what the theme and rules of the game will be. The game’s difficulty can be altered to suit the ability of the students; themes can be chosen to promote responses which are nouns, adjectives etc.
- Each child takes it in turn to say a word based on a theme; then, according to the particular rules of the game, the other must respond with a suitable word of their own: if they cannot their partner scores a point. Each word can only be used once. The aim of the game is to score three points
- The suggested theme for the game is **brain injury**.
- Students can decide their own two rules for the game. Please see below for examples of potential rules:
 - Each letter of the alphabet may only be used as the beginning letter once
 - The word must begin with the last letter of the previous word
 - The words must rhyme, e.g. bump, grump
 - Each player has five seconds to think of a word
- Encourage the children to change partners once they have had a few games with their first partner. This will encourage fresh competition and keep the game exciting.
- Word tennis is an excellent way of encouraging children to develop their vocabulary. The game can be tailored to any theme that is being taught, and can be a good way of demonstrating

subject knowledge. Students should be encouraged to use some of the new words they learned through the introduction to The Children's Trust.

Main activity 2: 20 mins

Story telling

- For the main task the activity leader will ask students to write their own short story about brain injury and recovery. It need not be longer than 500 words. This is a chance for students to get as creative as they want. They can base the story on real life or make it as fantastical as they want.
- A basic story structure to follow would include the following: Accident, diagnosis, rehab, recovery.
- Use The Children's Trust's example of Tim-Tron. Robot boy, Tim-Tron bumps his head on the crossbar while playing football with his friends. If an impact of this kind causes a brain injury, it is known as a 'traumatic brain injury', or TBI. The rest of the story tracks his recovery and adjustment to life after his injury. For more information please click the following link: <https://www.braininjuryhub.co.uk/tim-tron-a-guide-for-grown-ups>
- After 25 minutes of writing, stop the class and chose a few students to read out their stories and get the class to discuss them. This activity will help to improve the student's oratory and presentation skills. Get the rest of the class to give feedback about their classmate's stories. Ask them what they liked and how the main character's life was changed.

Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, the students should have developed an understanding of how an ABI changes the lives of children and their ability to undertake cognitive tasks. The students should be able to introduce themselves in Makaton. They should also be able to explain how The Children's Trust helps improve the lives of those children with ABI.