

RECIPROCITY:

The social aspects of learning, 'relating'

The capacities that make up this disposition are:

Interdependence Collaboration Empathy Listening Imitation

Interdependence

Knowing when it's appropriate to learn on your own or with others, and being able to stand your ground in debate.



How to make the most of the story;

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MUM

It's almost mum's birthday and grandma thinks this is a good time for Soli and his little sister Tasha to make birthday cards for her.

Before they start making their cards there are decisions to be made. Will Soli and Tasha each make a card, or one card together? How much are they able to do alone and who might need help? Soli, the big brother, can do most of it by himself, but he finds some aspects of the task better with a little help from grandma. Grandma and Tasha work together, but even Tasha can manage some of it by herself.



After the story

Connecting questions

- Before they started making mum's birthday card what did grandma ask Soli and Tasha?
- How did they decide to work?
- What happened when Soli tried to do the first job?
- Soli found he could do most of the jobs by himself. What things did he do?
- When did he find it better working with grandma?
- What did Tasha and grandma do together?
- What could Tasha do by herself?
- What could Soli and Tasha both do?
- Do you think their mum would like their cards?

Transferring questions

- Can you think of some of the things you usually do by yourself in school?
- When do you learn with other people?
- Which do you prefer, working on your own or working with others?
- When do you think it's best to learn with others?
- When do you think it's best to learn by yourself?
- Are there any bad things about learning with others? How do you manage these?
- What's not so good when you learn by yourself?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MUM!

A story to introduce: Interdependence

It was Friday, and on Friday Soli went to grandma's house after school. Tasha was already there because grandma collected her from nursery at lunchtime. When they had got back to the house and grandma had given them a drink Soli was beginning to think about what they would do before dad came to collect them on his way home from work. But grandma already had plans.

"Now you know Monday is a special day."

"Yes," said Soli "It's mum's birthday."

"It certainly is. And have you thought about a birthday card for her?"

"Couldn't we make one grandma?" Soli asked.

"That's just what I'd been thinking," said grandma. "In fact I've already looked around to see what I had that you could use to make your mum a card," and as she talked she went over to the cupboard and pulled out a cardboard box. "Have a look in here. Do you think you could do something with these bits and pieces?"

Soli lifted the lid off the box and peered inside.

It was certainly a colourful mix of things! There were ribbons, paper flowers, beads, shiny coloured paper as well as glue and sticky tape.

Tasha looked too. She liked what she saw.

"I can make a card too," she said.

"Are you going to make a card each, or do you want to make one together?" asked grandma.

"I want to make my own card," said Soli. "Tasha's not very good at cutting and she gets glue all over the place."

"Well she is a bit younger than you," said grandma.

"She's still learning. So what if you make your own card and I help Tasha. Is that a good idea Tasha?"

Soli and Tasha were both happy with that, but the first job turned out to be quite difficult for both of them. Grandma gave them each a piece of card that had to be folded to make a birthday card and Soli found that quite difficult. The first piece he folded was all crooked, and it wouldn't stand up at all. He tried to fold it again but that made the piece of card look even worse, with so many creases. He wasn't pleased with that at all.

"I think we'd better do that bit together," said grandma, and it was a lot easier to have someone help him line up the corners and hold them in place while he made a long crease along the edge of the card. Together Soli and his grandma folded two cards and then Soli was able to get started.

"Do you need me to do anything else with you?" grandma asked.

"No thanks grandma, I can do it myself now."

This was the bit that Soli liked. He knew that mum liked flowers so he decided to cut some of the shiny coloured paper into flower shapes and stick them like a big bunch of flowers in the middle of the card.



Meanwhile grandma talked with Tasha and together they decided that mum would like some butterflies on Tasha's card. Tasha could cut shapes if they were quite big, so they decided to have just one big butterfly on the front. Grandma showed Tasha how you could fold the paper and cut half a butterfly shape and when you opened it up you would have a whole butterfly. With a bit of help from grandma in cutting round the corners Tasha managed most of it by herself and they soon had a lovely butterfly shape for Tasha to begin decorating.

Tasha was good with felt pens, so grandma watched as she decorated the butterfly wings with spots and zig-zags, hearts and stars. But gluing wasn't so easy and grandma helped her to make sure she didn't have too much of the sticky white stuff on her brush before she started to spread it over the card. Then she helped with the glitter that was going to go all around the edge of the butterfly wings. Soon the card was finished.

And Soli had finished his too, well almost. He had used the glue very carefully to stick the flowers he had cut out onto the card, and he had used a felt pen to draw some flower stems. Now he wanted to put a bow of ribbon around the bunch of flowers, but he still found tying a bow very difficult.

"Grandma could you help me to tie a bow please?" he asked.

He chose a yellow ribbon from the box and he watched grandma carefully as she tied the ribbon into a bow. It was difficult, but he would be able to stick the bow onto the card, and he knew how to write 'mum', but not happy birthday. Grandma wrote it on a piece of paper for him and soon he had written, in his very best writing:

To Mum, happy birthday, love from Soli.

Grandma wrote the words for Tasha, but both Soli and Tasha were able to put on mum's cards, some great big kisses.

They stood their cards on the table so that when dad came he was able to see their work.

"Well, you've been busy bees," dad said. "They look great. Your mum will just love those cards."

"We worked very hard dad," said Soli. "I did most of mine all by myself, but grandma helped me a bit and she helped Tasha too."

"You're a great team," said dad. "Your mum will be so proud of you."