

# OACAS Dress Purple Day: Lesson 4



## Lesson 4: Dress Purple Day

#IBREAKthesilence / It Takes a Village to Keep Kids Safe

### Lesson Introduction

On Dress Purple Day communities across Ontario collectively speak up and share the positive message that child abuse and neglect can be prevented, that help is available, and that it takes a village to keep kids safe. As key partners in keeping children safe, schools and Children's Aid Societies work closely together on this day to help children understand their rights to safety and well-being, and how to ask the "village" for help if they need support. On Dress Purple Day, schools, teachers, and children are encouraged to speak in one voice and to participate in group activities that emphasize the importance of community.

This lesson is designed to engage children in positive and fun activities that help bring Dress Purple Day messages to life. It echoes the themes that are presented in greater detail in the first three lessons available as part of these resources: Lesson 1: It Takes a Village to Keep Kids Safe; Lesson 2: Safety in the Village; and Lesson 3: Well-being in the Village. This lesson can be used on its own, without engaging children in the previous modules, but it has been designed to feel fresh for children who have been working on themes throughout the month.

On Dress Purple Day children are reminded to get help from adults in their village and are assisted in identifying who those helping adults could be. They are supported in knowing that every child's helping network will look different. They are also encouraged to keep on telling until they get the help they need. On Dress Purple Day children can also be reminded that they have a right to feel safe, to have their voices heard, and to have their boundaries respected. They can be assisted in understanding they have physical, emotional, social, and cognitive needs, that these needs are fundamental, and that it is the responsibility of adults in the community, including caregivers and teachers, to meet these needs.

We deeply appreciate the education community's dedication to the well-being of children. We thank you for your part in bringing this important message of awareness and prevention to your classroom.

*N.B. This lesson can also be used leading up to Dress Purple Day. If used prior to the day the teacher is encouraged to wear something purple, perhaps a hat, scarf, or purple clothing. If the*



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*lesson is being delivered on Dress Purple Day, the teacher will wear purple and note all of the purple clothing/decorations in the room.*

*On Dress Purple Day the teacher may wish to have a selection of purple items available to support those who do not have purple clothing, such as stickers, ribbons, or bracelets/headbands made out of purple construction paper.*

### Key Themes

1. We dress in purple to speak up for the rights of children to safety and well-being
2. We dress in purple to speak up about the importance of asking for help from adults
3. We dress in purple to speak up about how it takes a village to keep kids safe

### Learning Outcomes

1. To help children understand that we dress in purple to speak up for children's rights to safety and well-being
2. To help children understand that we dress in purple to say the "village" needs to keep kids safe
3. To help children understand the importance of asking for help when they need support
4. To help children identify adults in their "village" that they can go to for help

### Grade-specific Learning Objectives

#### JK-SK:

- Help children understand that they dress in purple to remind people of the need for all children to be safe
- Help children understand that they dress in purple to remind people that the community or "village" of adults needs to help keep kids safe
- Help children identify adults they can go to for help

#### Grades 1-2:

- Help children understand that they dress in purple to remind people of the need for all children to be safe
- Help children understand that they dress in purple to remind people that the community or "village" of adults needs to help keep kids safe
- Help children identify adults they can go to for help

#### Grades 3-5:

- Introduce concept of dressing in purple as a way to collectively stand up for the rights of children to safety and well-being
- Introduce the concept of dressing in purple as a way to remind everybody that the community or "village" needs to help keep children safe
- Discuss the concept of "breaking the silence" and asking for help when children need support

- Help children identify adults they can go to for help
- Discuss why it is important for children across Ontario to dress in purple and speak up about their right to safety and well-being

## Discussion Questions

JK-SK:

1. Why do you think I/we are wearing purple today?
  - *Purple is a colour that has been chosen as a symbol to remind us that all kids need to be safe.*
  - *Purple is a colour that has been chosen as a symbol to remind us that the community or "village" needs to work together to look after kids.*
  - *On Dress Purple Day many of us are wearing this colour to remind everybody of this important information.*
2. Dress Purple Day is a good day to remind ourselves about what we should do if we are not feeling safe. If you're not feeling safe, what do you think you should do?
  - *When children have a problem or worry or feel unsafe they need to ask an adult for help.*
  - *This question opens the conversation of how the first person a child goes to may not be helpful or may be unavailable. Emphasize that it is important to keep telling until you get the help you need.*
3. Dress Purple Day is also a good day to remind ourselves about how a community or "village" needs to work together to keep kids safe. Who in your community or "village" would you go to for help if you are not feeling safe or need a helping hand?
  - *A community or village is made up of different kinds of people: adults, including adults and caregivers, and children.*
  - *Being part of a "village" means there are lots of people you can go to for support.*
  - *Encourage children to provide more than one adult they can go to for help.*
  - *Acknowledge that each individual's support network will look different.*
  - *Give examples of professionals who are helping adults: teachers, police, doctors, nurses, paramedics, firefighters, Children's Aid workers, etc.*

Grades 1-2:

1. Today is Dress Purple Day. Can anybody tell me why we are marking this day by wearing purple?
  - *Purple is a colour that has been chosen as a symbol to remind us that all kids need to be safe.*
  - *Purple is a colour that has been chosen as a symbol to remind us that the community or "village" needs to work together to look after kids.*

2. Dress Purple Day offers an opportunity to remind kids about what they should do if they are not feeling safe. If you're not feeling safe what do you think you should do?
  - *When children have a problem or worry or feel unsafe they need to ask an adult for help.*
  - *This question opens up the conversation of how the first person a child goes to may not be helpful or may be unavailable. Emphasize that it is important to keep telling until you get the help you need.*
3. Why do you think it might be difficult for some kids to ask an adult for help?
  - *Adults are sometimes busy and don't listen well (This question opens up the conversation of how the first person a child goes to may not be helpful or may be unavailable. Emphasize that it is important to keep telling until you get the help you need.)*
  - *It's sometimes difficult to tell other people about our worries or things that are bothering us.*
  - *Children might feel shy, or worry about being laughed at or not being believed*
4. On Dress Purple Day we remind ourselves about how a community or "village" of adults needs to work together to keep kids safe. Who in your "village" would you go to for help if you are not feeling safe and need a helping hand?
  - *A community or village is made up of different kinds of people: adults, including parents and caregivers, and children.*
  - *Being part of a "village" means there are lots of people you can go to for support when you need it.*
  - *Encourage children to provide more than one adult they can go to for help.*
  - *Acknowledge that each individual's support network will look different.*
  - *Give examples of professionals who can be helping adults: teachers, police, doctors, nurses, paramedics, firefighters, etc.*

### Grades 3-5:

1. Today is Dress Purple Day. Can anybody tell me why we are marking this day by wearing something purple?
  - *Purple as a symbol of the rights of children to safety and well-being.*
2. Dress Purple Day is also day when we remind kids what they should do if they are not feeling safe. If you're not feeling safe, what do you think you should do?
  - *Emphasize the importance of getting help from an adult.*
  - *This question opens up the conversation of how the first person a child goes to may not be helpful or may be unavailable. Emphasize that it is important to keep telling until you get the help you need.*
3. "I break the silence" is one of the slogans of Dress Purple Day. What do you think that means? Why do you think there is silence? Why might it be hard to ask for help?
  - *Adults are sometimes busy and don't listen well.*

- *It's sometimes difficult to tell other people about our worries or things that are bothering us.*
  - *Children might feel shy, or worry about being laughed at or not believed.*
  - *This question opens up the conversation of how the first person a child goes to may not be helpful or may be unavailable. Emphasize that it is important to keep telling until you get the help you need.*
4. Dress Purple Day is also a good day to remind ourselves that a community needs to work together to keep kids safe. Another Dress Purple Day slogan is "It takes a village to keep kids safe." What do you think the "village" is? Who in your "village" would you go to for help if you're not feeling safe and need a helping hand?
- *Encourage children to provide more than one adult they can go to for help.*
  - *Acknowledge that each individual's support network will look different.*
5. Kids in schools across Ontario are wearing purple today. Why do you think it's a good idea for kids to speak up on Dress Purple Day and not just adults?
- *It's important adults hear kids' voice*
  - *It's important that kids learn about their rights to safety and well-being*

### Activity

- Helping Hands
- Purple Yarn Web
- Break the Silence

### Relevant Ontario Curriculum Expectations

JK-SK:

- See 'Healthy Relationships and Kindergarten' on p. 102-103 of The Kindergarten Program curricular document (2016 version)

Ontario Health and Physical Education Curriculum:

Overall Living Skills Expectations:

**Grades 1-5:** 1.3, 1.4

Overall Expectations:

**Grades 1-5:** C2

Specific Expectations:

**Grade 1:** C1.2

**Grade 2:** C2.3

**Grade 3:** C2.2

**Grade 4:** C2.2

**Grade 5:** C1.1