

Children and health

(with PowerPoint presentation/photographs)

Primary Assembly

April 2009

Year groups

Reception, Year 1-6

Cross Curricular Themes

RE Here I am - Growing

Citizenship – 1a. Recognise what is fair and unfair; 2e. Realise that people have needs, and that we all have responsibilities to meet them; 5g. Consider dilemmas

Geography – 3e. Recognise how places fit within a wider geographical context and are interdependent

Equipment needed

Projector for slideshow, 4 large pieces of card, 8 readers

Introduction

Leader

In April every year the world celebrates World Health Day. On this day around the world people celebrate the importance of health to be able to live a happy life.

Leader to ask questions:

- What do you think 'healthy living' means?
- What sort of things do we all need to stay healthy?

In many countries people are not able to see doctors or nurses when they are feeling unwell. Without this care people can get very sick, and babies and children suffer the most.

In the year 2000, 189 countries around the world met to talk about problems in the world today, and making sure that children and babies are cared for when they are young was one of the important goals they set. They called these goals the 'Millennium Development Goals.'

Leader to ask questions:

- Have any babies been born in your family recently, or do you have younger brothers and sisters at home?
- Why do you think new babies are taken to the doctor for injections and check ups?
- What sort of things do people do to care for babies?

Every year nearly 11 million children in the world die before their 5th birthday. Here are some of the reasons why:

4 children to hold up, read the cards, and walk across the stage:

Not enough food Drinking unclean water Washing in unclean water No medicine

We are now going to learn about a family who live in Nigeria. Nigeria is a country in West Africa.

Many Nigerian children are not able to grow up to be healthy because of illnesses caught from unclean water, and because they do not have enough good food to eat. The Church in Nigeria is helping people by opening clinics for new mothers, new babies and young children so that they do not fall ill.

Let's meet Florence. Florence is married to Alphonsious and they have ten children! Here is Florence's story about how important healthcare is for her family and community.

Main presentation – Slideshow PowerPoint of photographs

Speaker 1



Welcome to my village! Here you can see some of the women in the village making food. I work on the farm with our animals, and I cook and fetch water for my family every day. I look after my children and make sure that they are healthy and happy.
My husband works at the local clinic called St Monica's. The clinic is a place that helps people who are ill and need care. My husband helps people understand the importance of healthy living for mothers, new babies and young children.

Speaker 2



To keep my children healthy I know they need food and clean water. We have one stream nearby which we use for all of our water needs, including drinking, washing and watering our goats. There is a little bit of water left in the stream now, but when the dry season is at its worst, and there is no rain for weeks, we have to walk half a day to the next village to fetch water.

Speaker 3



We are very careful with the water we fetch. All of my children have had a disease called typhoid. This disease comes from unclean water.
Better healthcare is so important for all of us living in my community. St Monica's clinic is a real help, but we need more clinics and more nurses and more medicine.

Speaker 4



This is my youngest son, Albert. When Albert was born his leg was very swollen and looked infected. He was in a lot of pain and we were so worried about him. The government hospitals are far away and very expensive. We took Albert straight to St Monica's clinic which helps local people with medicine and care.

Speaker 5



This is nurse Teclar who met Albert in the clinic and found out that he had a broken leg. Albert's leg was put in plaster and he was treated with medicine for the infection.
Albert was in the clinic for a month and I was very worried about him. With lots of help from the nurses Albert felt much better and was able to come back home to his brothers and sisters who really missed him!

Speaker 6



Who knows what would have happened to Albert if St Monica's clinic wasn't there? Our family could not afford to pay for treatment at the government hospital. We are so thankful to the nurses who work at St Monica's clinic.

Speaker 7



St Monica's gives so much to this community. We are happier and healthier because of the care that the nurses give us. We trust the healthcare at St Monica's - good healthcare gives us hope for the future.

Speaker 8



I thank God for the clinic. Thanks to the nurses at the clinic my baby is healthy and I am happy. I hope and pray that Albert and his brothers and sisters have long and happy lives. I hope that Albert grows up to be a nurse or a doctor so that he can carry on helping people!

Reflection

Leader

Albert's story is a happy one. Thanks to the work of CAFOD and the Church in Nigeria, and the support from people here in the UK, these health centres are saving children's lives every day.

Remember, improving the health of children and babies is one of the Millennium Development Goals. Try to find out more about these goals when you leave here today, and talk to your friends and family about the importance of good healthcare for children and families.



In the Bible we are told that people brought babies and little children to Jesus, and he laid his hands on the children and blessed them to keep them safe and healthy.

People were bringing children to Jesus so that he might touch them. Jesus said “Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to them.”

Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. (Luke 18:15)

Leader to ask question:

- Why do you think mothers and fathers wanted Jesus to bless their children?

Let us now take a few minutes in silence to think about children in Nigeria, and around the world, who do not have clean water, healthy food and medicine for when they are ill.

Let us remember children in Nigeria in our prayers.

Prayer

Leader

(Show slide number 12 and invite the whole assembly to read aloud)

Let us now pray together:

God our Father, we thank you for your gift of life.

We pray that children everywhere may be given all that they need to live long and happy lives.

Amen.

Additional notes

See www.cafod.org.uk/kidzzzone for ‘Mani’s Healthy Village’ game – a great interactive classroom activity to further explore healthcare issues in Nigeria.

See www.cafod.org.uk/primary/livesimply for the Children’s Community Challenges - The *livesimply* challenges encourage children to learn more about ways in which they can make a difference in the world by living simply, sustainably and in solidarity as a school community.

Order your ‘Sharing our World’ resource pack now, the must have toolkit for global education. It includes nine posters, DVD film clips, whiteboard activities and a comprehensive teacher’s book with activity ideas and curriculum links, and looks at healthcare for children as one of the Millennium Goals www.cafod.org.uk/primary/mdg