

Teacher Notes for 45min Presentation



What is Electric Umbrella?

Slide 4:

Suggested Discussion Prompts/ Answers:

- **What does Electric Umbrella use to unite people and help people express themselves?**
Music - performances, instruments, songwriting, community, friendship, acceptance
- **Why do you think it's important for a person to feel "seen, heard and valued"?**
So that they feel that they belong, to have self worth, to increase self esteem, to feel happy, included and accepted, to feel part of a community, not outside from it. How do you make society feel more inclusive if you don't give a voice to everyone?
- **Do you think it's harder for some people to feel like that and, if so, why?**
Communication difficulties, feeling "different", not everyone has access to the same opportunities, through socio economic circumstances, disability, geography, people assume that learning disabled people don't have the same wants, needs and opinions as others
- **Tom said, "You can change the piano, not the pianist." What do you think he means?**
Finding out what people's needs are, how to meet those needs and creating adapted instruments that are more accessible to everyone. Thinking about things differently and considering people as individuals, in order to make changes that could benefit lots of people. This is based on the social model of disability and equity, rather than equality. In practical terms, why not build a ramp up to a stage, instead of a staircase?
- **Extra question:**
Who do you think is responsible for making sure that everyone feels included in society? Everyone. We can each make small changes to help people feel valued and part of society. It can be as simple as smiling at someone and letting them know that they are seen

William's Story

Slide 6:

Watch William's video together (slide 5) before discussing it together.

Ask the children to discuss the following questions in pairs, write down ideas on their worksheets and then share their ideas with the class/group

Suggested Discussion Prompts/ Answers:

- **What challenges do you think William might face in order to do what he loves?**
William communicates in a way that needs patience and understanding, so it might not be easy for him to explain what he wants to do. William is a wheelchair user and so may have trouble accessing certain buildings, facilities and activities. William does not have the physical dexterity to play some traditional instruments, even though he wants to. William needs to use specialist transport to travel to activities and venues. William needs support in order to eat, drink, and use the toilet. He relies on the kindness and professionalism of others in order to do what he wants.
- **Do you think people might make assumptions about William because of his disabilities? Give examples.**
Because William doesn't have the physical dexterity to play certain instruments, some might assume that he doesn't want to play them. Because William doesn't communicate in the same way as other people, some might assume that he doesn't understand what's going on, can't make decisions for himself or have anything important, funny, creative to say. Because William is a wheelchair user, some might assume that William isn't interested in attending the same events as those that are not. Because William is physically and learning disabled, people might assume that he doesn't have the same hopes, dreams and desires as other people.
- **How does Electric Umbrella help and why do you think that's important?**
Creates a welcoming environment where people give him time and space to communicate, creates adapted instruments that he can play, so that he can explore his creative potential, encourages him to take part in performances that not only bring joy for William but also encourage people to consider accessibility. It's important for William because it helps him to find friendship, community and creative activities. He feels like he belongs, which increases his self esteem and mental wellbeing
- **William performed on BGT with Electric Umbrella. Why was it important for William, and Electric Umbrella, to appear on a primetime TV show like BGT?**

It showed people what can be achieved when humans work together to support each other, it was aspirational for other disabled people who may have been watching (the importance of representation), it gave a voice to a group of people who often don't get to feature on TV in a positive, creative way, it was great fun for everyone involved!! The conversations that had to happen behind the scenes were really important in terms of accessibility and challenging perceptions of the learning disabled community.

Who am I and who are you?

Slide 7:

- Children use the "I am..." section of their worksheet to complete the tasks. The exercise is designed to help the children discuss their own identities, what they think are the most important jigsaw pieces that make them "them". It will highlight that we have lots of similarities with those in our immediate community, but also differences that need to be noticed too.

Celebrate and Understand Difference

Slide 8:

Suggested Discussion Prompts:

- By finding out about different cultures, religions, identities and needs, we can start to value people as individuals and break down prejudices that are born from fear and the dehumanisation of those that are seen as different to us. Difference is to be acknowledged, accepted and celebrated. When we do this, we can start to think about what people need in order to feel part of a genuinely diverse and respectful society.

Gavin's Story

This session includes a first hand account from a victim of hate crime, describing how he was beaten up (slide 10). We advise that teachers watch the video in advance before deciding whether it is appropriate for their students.

Slide 10:

Further Discussion Points:

- **Do you think sometimes people are scared to talk about difference, in case they say the "wrong" thing? What problems might this lead to?**
- **Would life be easier if we were all the same?**
- **Do you think people consider all forms of discrimination equally, or is some seen as worse than others? If so, why?**

Slide 16-18:

Further Discussion points/ information:

- **What is a Hate Crime?** "Any crime can be prosecuted as a Hate Crime if the offender has either: demonstrated hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity. Or been motivated by hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity. Someone can be a victim of more than one type of hate crime."
- **A Hate Incident doesn't have to include a criminal act.** It is an act of abuse (name calling, bullying) based on prejudice. People can (and should) still report hate incidents to the police as they can show a pattern of behaviour/ victimisation and perpetrators of hate incidents may go on to commit Hate Crimes.
- **Emergencies should be reported through 999**, non emergencies through 101 or report online through True Vision: https://www.report-it.org.uk/your_police_force

"It's Not a Crime to be Different"

Slide 13: "Exploring the lyrics"

Children to use the lyric section of their worksheet to complete the tasks and share their thoughts with the class.

Further Discussion Prompts:

- **What would you do if you heard discriminatory language being used in your school/ friendship group/ family?**
- **What do you think makes a good leader?**
- **Is it easy to be inclusive?**
- **Is it worth it to be inclusive?**

What can we do to make our community more welcoming and inclusive?

Slide 14:

- Read the points together and discuss how this could be applied to your own school community