

# THE MINDFUL SCHOOL

## Student Lessons - Level 1



CONCEPT:

**MINDFUL BREATHING**

EXERCISE NAME:

**THE BOTTLE OF CALM/'MIND JAR'**

EXPLANATION:

THIS LESSON INTRODUCES CHILDREN TO THE MIND JAR. THE MIND JAR IS A TOOL THAT CAN BE VERY USEFUL TO CALM US DOWN WHEN WE ARE NERVOUS, AND IS INSPIRED BY THE MONTESSORI METHOD. WHEN WE SHAKE THE JAR, WE CAN OBSERVE HOW THE GLITTER MOVES UNCONTROLLABLY, SUCH AS WHEN WE GET ANGRY OR FRUSTRATED. WHEN WE SHAKE THE JAR AND THE GLITTER MOVES, IT REPRESENTS OUR MIND WHEN IT IS FULL OF NERVOUS/NEGATIVE THOUGHTS.

METHODOLOGY

- THIS TOOL CAN BE USED AS PART OF A WHOLE CLASS LESSON OR WITH INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN. IF THE MIND JAR IS BEING USED WITH AN INDIVIDUAL CHILD, IT CAN BE USED WHEN THE CHILD IS FEELING CHALLENGING EMOTIONS SUCH AS FEELING NERVOUS, ANGRY, IRRITATED ETC.
- INVITE THE CHILD TO SHAKE THE MIND JAR AND FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION TO THE PATTERNS AND MOVEMENTS OF THE LIQUID AND GLITTER. ACCORDING TO SOME STUDIES, WHILE CHILDREN OBSERVE THE FALL OF GLITTER, THEY CAN ORGANIZE AND CENTRALIZE THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.
- INVITE THE CHILD TO FOCUS ON THE CONTENTS OF THE JAR UNTIL ALL OF THE GLITTER HAS SETTLED. THIS FOCUS WILL DIVERT THE CHILD'S ATTENTION FROM THE CHALLENGING EMOTION THEY ARE FEELING AND WILL HOPEFULLY SUPPORT THE CHILD IN CALMING DOWN.
- WHEN THE CHILD IS CALM, THIS JAR CAN BE USED AS A METAPHOR FOR THEIR CHALLENGING THOUGHTS - MUCH LIKE THE GLITTER IN THE JAR, IT CAN BE TRICKY TO FEEL PRESENT WHEN OUR THOUGHTS ARE RACING AROUND OUR HEAD. USING OUR MINDFUL BREATHS AND ALLOWING TIME FOR THE CHALLENGING EMOTION TO PASS, AND THE GLITTER TO SETTLE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE JAR CAN HELP US TO BECOME MORE CALM AND OVERCOME OUR CHALLENGING EMOTIONS.

REFERENCES:

**FSTORY BREATHE**

LESSON #:

**2**

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### REFLECTION QUESTIONS (CHILDREN OR FACILITATOR)

WHAT DID YOU NOTICE AFTER YOU SHOOK THE MIND JAR? CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME YOUR MIND FELT BUSY LIKE THE MIND JAR? DID WATCHING THE MIND JAR HELP YOU TO MAKE YOUR HEAD FEEL LESS BUSY?



# LESSON RESOURCES

