

IDENTITY & SELF-ACCEPTANCE | WEEK 1

WELCOME & WHO YOU ARE

Leaders, as you prepare for your first week with students please pray for Junior Company. We invite you to create an environment of safety - mentally, physically and emotionally for everyone. By learning students names, you are familiar with them before they arrive. By being in your small group space and set up, you are inviting your students to a place where they can choose to engage and not be overwhelmed by social interactions, eye contact etc.

Creating a safe place isn't something that happens in one week. It takes time for students to learn how to trust you and the other group members. Trust is an investment. It's something that we have to mutually earn. And while we can't promise that it'll happen immediately, we can promise that these three strategies will help to guide you towards it.

LEAD THE GROUP

Be a facilitator, an observer and encourager.

RESPECT THE PROCESS

Rely on training and content provided, and welcome and accept where students are at.

GUARD THE HEART

Leading a small group takes work; guarding the heart takes effort. And although we're building trust, at times this trust must be broken for safety reasons. In groups, you're giving students opportunity to grow and learn. Where they are accepted, ideas are safe and honesty is valued. So model those things.

Celebrate everyone equally. Shut down gossip. Address individual issues privately.

LEADERS GOAL

Learn as much as possible about each student and help them to learn about you & others.

EXPECTATIONS & BEHAVIOURS

Ensure students are aware of what the expectations are, why we follow them.

ACTIVITIES

Horton Hears a Who!
Name Chain
Thing 1 & Thing 2 Relay

PRAY

Introduce what this is, who we are speaking to & lead

SUPPLIES

- Bristol board decorated like a Dr. Seuss Hat
- Markers
- Two props (red/blue scarves, feather boas) to represent Thing 1 & Thing 2, for Thing 1 & Thing 2 Relay
- Bible
- Create welcoming space by engaging with students as they enter the space

BOTTOM LINE

Who I am matters—and it's worth celebrating.



AS STUDENTS ARRIVE

Introduce self and learn students' name as they enter space.

Introduce each student by name to each other as they arrive.

Learn everything you can about who they are, where they come from, who they live with, what's important to them, what school looks like, favorite food or candy, ways to relax.

Students write their names around the hat as Small Group Leader randomly writes or draws information about students around hat, too.

STORY CONNECTION

- There are a lot of characters to get to know in Seussical! Cat 1, Cat 2, Cat 3, the Whos, JoJo, Gertrude McFuzz, Mayzie LaBird, Sour Kangaroo, the Wickersham Brothers, and so many more! It's going to be a fun show.

Horton, the caring elephant, says, "A person's a person, no matter how small." (Script, p11) At K2K, we know that every person matters!

TRUTH & TREASURE

At K2K, we believe and celebrate that God is the one true God. We will take time here in our small group to learn more about who God is and how much He loves you and me.

We rely on the Bible to teach us. The Bible is full of stories, letters, and poems that help us learn more about God and His Son, Jesus. The Bible also helps us understand how He made us unique in our interests and abilities.

We'll also dive into the Seussical script and themes of identity, purpose, standing up for what's right even when it's hard, being stronger together, and believing the impossible.

OUR STORIES

- What brought you to K2K? How did you know about it?
- What about K2K are you most excited for this year?
- Do you have any questions or concerns about K2K?

K2K BASICS & EXPECTATIONS...

At K2K, you matter, and we want to get to know you! The real and authentic you is important to us. At K2K, you can be yourself. What matters most to us is who you are, not what you can do.

We expect a few things from you in how we treat one another:



K2K BASICS & EXPECTATIONS CONTINUED

- Most importantly, it is to treat one another the way you want to be treated.
- Encourage each other
- Choose to be honest
- Participate, play, and learn with cooperation and kindness. Be respectful.
- One person speaks at a time.

See the full list of expectations Backstage here <https://k2kproductions.ca/rules-of-conduct>

Is there anything missing here that's important to you?

We value this space so much that we set up boundaries to keep K2K a safe and special place for everyone. If you are not able to treat others, the furniture, this building, or your leaders with respect, you will receive a warning. After two warnings, we will pause what we're doing to speak with K2K Staff. At that time, you will be given a choice, and if the behaviour does not change, we may ask you to step back from attending K2K.

DISCOVERY TIME

Game | Horton Hears a Who!

Students sit in a circle. One student is Horton and sits blindfolded in the middle.

Leader points to one person in the circle who makes a silly sound or says a fun fact about themselves ("I love pineapple on pizza!").

Horton has one guess to figure out who said it. If Horton guesses right, students swap spots. If not, Horton stays and gets another try.

Game | Thing 1 & Thing 2 Relay

Supplies: Two props (red/blue scarves, feather boas) to represent Thing 1 & Thing 2

Split into two teams. Line up at one end of small group space. Small Group Leader stands on the other end of the space, and gives students a get to know you question.

The first two players put on props, run to the other end, answer the question ("What's your favorite rainy day activity?"), then run back. Pass the props to the next teammates in line and repeat.

Game | Name Chain

This game helps students learn each other's names by the end of Small Group time. Begin with one student and go around the circle with each student repeating previous names in a growing sequence.



PRAYER

We like to end our small group time with a prayer to God.

Prayer is talking to God and listening to Him just like talking and listening to your best friend. God hears us when you talk to Him. You may want to close your eyes while we pray, or sit with your eyes open, or hands out. It's your choice.

Let's pray.

Dear God, thank you for bringing us all together today. Some of us are excited to be here and some of us are not really sure. Please help us feel welcome, seen, and heard at K2K. Help us to be kind, patient, and understanding with each other. We are excited for K2K, this show, and getting to know each other better. Amen.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Your Seussical script will be given out at the end of the night during sign out. We will end each Small Group time with a challenge. Your challenge this week is to start reading your Seussical script. What characters are you drawn to or can you relate to the most? I look forward to you sharing this with us at the start of next week's Small Group time.

Please put your script in a binder when you get home. Bring your script, indoor shoes, dance shoes, and labelled water bottle with you each time you come to K2K.

