

# Changes in relationships

## Learning objective

Students discuss the changes that take place in relationships over time and identify feelings and strategies to help and cope with these changes.

## Take Home Messages

- People's lives have different stages of growth and development.
- Changes in relationships over time are normal.
- Changes in relationships can bring about different feelings for different people.
- There is a range of strategies to use to cope with changes in relationships.
- People cope with changes in relationships differently.

## Curriculum Links

### [WA HPE Curriculum](#)

Sub-strand: Personal identity and change

- Ways that individuals and groups adapt to different contexts and situations

Sub-strand: Healthy and active communities

- Strategies that promote a safe, healthy lifestyle

Sub-strand: Interacting with others

- Skills and strategies to establish and maintain respectful relationships
- Ways in which inappropriate emotional response impact on relationships

### [International technical guidance on sexuality education](#)

Key concept 1.1: Families

- Health and illness can affect families in terms of their structure, capacities and responsibilities.

Key concept 1.2 Friendship, love and romantic relationships

- Friendship and love help people feel positive about themselves

Key concept 5.5: Finding help and support

- There are different sources of help and support in the school and the wider community.

## Materials

- Student Activity Sheet: [Changes in relationships](#) [one per group]
- Student Activity Sheet: [Deal with it banana split](#) [one per student]

## Before You Get Started

- Be mindful that discussing significant changes in the family's routine, structure or dynamic might

bring up issues for students (e.g. separation or divorce; or death of a parent, grandparent or pet).

- It is important for the teacher to consider and affirm a range of parenting styles, family contexts and cultural backgrounds students may describe, to ensure the traditional family structure is not held up as the 'norm', or the only or best way.
- Teachers should know and understand the [protective interrupting](#) technique, and what, why, when and how it is needed and used, before facilitating this activity.

## Learning Activities

### Group agreement

5 min

Teaching tip: A group agreement must be established before any Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) program begins to ensure a safe learning environment. Read [Essential Tool: Establishing a group agreement](#) for tips on how to create one and what to include.

1. Revise or create the class [group agreement](#).

## Learning Activities

### Good changes and bad changes

25 mins

2. Divide the class into small groups. Ask them to consider changes they have experienced in their lives within their family and friendships, e.g. new baby in the family, pet dying, starting a new school, joining a new sporting team, family break-up or the death of a grandparent. Stress that changes in relationships over time are a normal part of life.
3. Have groups complete the Student Activity Sheet: Changes in relationships listing 'Good changes in relationships' and 'Not-so-good changes in relationships'.
4. Once this has been completed, ask the groups to cut the sheet into half: the 'Good changes in relationships' column and the 'Not-so-good changes in relationships' column.
  - Now cut the responses to the 'Good changes in relationships' column into single cards and put them in order, with the best change first.
  - Ask each group to share their top two responses with the class. Discuss the similarities and differences.
5. Ask:

How do things in the 'good changes' column make us feel?

(excited, happy, warm, connected, like we belong, proud)

How do things in the 'Not-so-good changes' column make us feel?

(sad, angry, nervous, powerless, agitated)

How could we support our friends when they have experienced 'Good changes' in their family and friends?

(celebrate, be happy with them, let them talk about the good things, ask for more information)

How could we support our friends when they have experienced 'Not-so-good changes' in their family and friends?

(let them talk, be nice to them, do nice things with them, spend with them)

How could we support our family when they have experienced 'Good changes'?

(celebrate, be happy with them, let them talk about the good things, ask for more information)

How could we support our family when they have experienced 'Not-so-good' changes'?

(make them something to feel special, spend time with them)

6. Now cut the responses to the 'Not-so-good changes in relationships' column into single cards and arrange these in order from most to least difficult.
  - Ask each group to share two responses (those which are most difficult) and discuss the similarities and differences.
7. Groups select three or four of their 'Not-so-good changes' cards and change the statements into a question. For example, the statement 'The first day at a new school' could become 'What can I do to cope with the first day at a new school?'. Students write the question at the top of a piece of paper.
8. Have each group brainstorm and record the strategies or advice they would use for dealing with, or helping someone else deal with, this change in relationship.

## Learning Activities

### Banana split

**20 mins**

9. Independently, students reflect on a significant change that has occurred in their own family or friendships, it may be one they included in the previous activity.
10. Introduce the 'Banana Split' strategy by showing page 1 of the Student Activity Sheet: Deal with it banana split as a poster or PowerPoint slide. Explain the sections to be completed independently:
  - Cheerful Cherry: Changes in relationships are a normal part of growing up. There is hope for the future. Write a hopeful message to yourself.
  - Rainbow Sprinkles: Bad times don't last forever. Write down 2 two great things that have happened to you since this event.
  - Ooey-Gooney Sauce Feelings: Intense feelings are normal in these situations. Name feelings you have had or are still having.
  - Cool Down Ice-cream: Stay cool, stay calm. Write 1 way you could calm your body in this situation.
  - Tough as Nuts: It's always good to talk to others in these situations. Who could you talk to feel better or who did you talk to?
  - Cool Down Ice-cream: Stay cool, stay calm. Write one other way you could calm your body in this situation.
  - Bendable Banana: Write the one 'Not-so-good change' you have experienced and some of the things you have done to cope (or try to cope) with this change.
11. Provide each student with a copy of page 2 of the Student Activity Sheet: Deal with it banana split and discuss.
12. Students complete the worksheet independently, using one significant change that has occurred in their own family or friendship group.

## 3-2-1 Reflection

### Reflection

#### 10 mins

13. Have students share their Banana split responses with others in a small group.
14. Ask:
  - What are some useful things that people thought, or did that helped them cope with a 'Not so good change'? (their bendable bananas)
  - What are some useful things people did to calm their bodies down in these situations? (their cool down ice cream)
  - Who were some helpful people to talk to in these situations? (their tough as nuts)
  - What were some common feelings that people had in these situations? (their ooey-gooney sauce)
  - What were some positive self-talk messages that people came up with? (their cherry on the top)
15. Highlight that everybody deals with significant change and loss differently and that's okay. It is important that our sadness or anger does not hurt other people. Thinking about how to cope with our pain can help with this.

## Health Promoting Schools

Background teacher note: [Health promoting schools framework](#).

### Education

Professional development

- Ensure all staff are aware of school policy and legal obligations to report suspected/confirmed abuse.

### Environment

Policy and procedure

- Ensure there are clear policies and procedure for staff on reporting suspected/confirmed abuse
- Ensure it is clear where to report suspected/confirmed child sexual abuse. Is there a link saved on every teacher's computer or signage in common teacher areas?

### Partnerships

Family

- [Talk Soon. Talk Often: a guide for parents talking to their kids about sex](#) is a free hardcopy resource that can be bulk ordered by schools and [website](#). Send a copy home to parents prior to starting your RSE program. The booklet offers ages and stage related information on puberty (and other topics) so that parents can reinforce the topics covered in class. ([How to order hard copies](#).) Provide the link to parents on school websites and social media.
- Order copies of [Puberty](#) and [Relationships, sex and other stuff](#) to be sent home for parents. Provide the link to parents on school websites and social media.
- Consider giving parents and family an additional heads-up for this lesson as you will be

- discussing bad changes or experiences.
- Run a parent workshop and run this activity with parents to model the content that will be covered in your RSE program.
- Run a parent and child evening session, where the children can teach the parents what they have been learning about.

#### School staff

- Invite the school nurse to your class to answer some of the question box questions. This serves two purposes - they may be able to answer some of the questions you are unsure of and helps to build a relationship between the students and the nurse.
- The school nurse may like to take small groups of students requiring additional or specialised care to run separate activities with on this topic.

## Consent: Looks like, sounds like, feels like

### Learning objective

Students discuss and learn about the ways that consent can be communicated including verbal and physical cues.

### Take Home Messages

- Consent involves both verbal communication and body language.
- You should ask other people if it is okay to touch them and listen to what they tell you.
- You can say no to other people, including adults.

### Materials

- Butchers paper
- Coloured pens - enough for each student

### Before You Get Started

#### Before you get started

- [Protective interrupting](#) - Teachers need to know and understand how to use this technique to prevent students from potentially disclosing sensitive information or abuse in front of other students.
- [Dealing with disclosures](#) - Teachers must be aware of the school and legal procedures if a student discloses personal issues, particularly disclosures of sexual abuse.

### Learning Activities

#### Consent communication brainstorm

1. Discuss: How consent can be communicated in lots of different ways. It's not just saying yes or no so it's important to make sure that you are aware and think about all the ways people can say yes or no.
2. Ask: What are some situations where you need to ask for consent or give consent?3. Using a

grouping strategy, divider the group into 6 groups. Give each group a piece of butcher's paper and pens. Each group to brainstorm one of the following, what:

- Giving consent looks like
  - Not giving consent looks like
  - Giving consent sounds like
  - Not giving consent sounds like
  - Giving consent feels like
  - Not giving consent feels like
- 
- Once groups have had adequate time to brainstorm (roughly 15 minutes), encourage everyone to walk around and add their own thoughts to the other pieces of butcher's paper.

4. Ask someone from each group to share what they brainstormed or discussed.

Teaching tip: If not mentioned naturally in sharing discussions make sure to mention- Sometimes people can "freeze" if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe. This might mean they don't move or respond verbally, so it's important to know that no response is also a no response. - Some people do not communicate verbally, so understanding their non-verbal cues are important to understanding when and how they consent.

## Learning Activities

### Consent clarification

Assign each corner of the room as A, B or C. A = Yes they consent, B = No they don't consent, and C= Unsure if they consent so would need to clarify.

5. ? Ask students to stand in the corner that they think is correct when answering the following questions:

- You ask your Mum if they want an ice cream, they shake their head from side to side and pull a disgusted looking face.
  - You ask a friend if they love Taylor Swift and they start playing one of her songs loudly off of their phone.
  - You ask your sister if you can borrow their new top and they say "umm duh, what do you think?"
- 
- You text your boyfriend/girlfriend and ask if they want to come over after school and they send you back a party emoji and say "sounds good, can't wait".

Teaching tip: You can adjust the examples to use different language terms to be culturally inclusive or mention communication devices or sign language to be more disability inclusive.

## 3-2-1 Reflection

- How can you clarify if you are unsure if someone consents?
- Was there anything new that you learned or were surprised by today?

- What is one thing we talked about today that you'd share with a friend or family member?

## Health Promoting Schools

- In school newsletters, include a question similar to those in the consent clarification game that offers an A, B or C answer so that students and families can discuss and share their thoughts on different situations and circumstances.
- Ask the drama and arts teachers if they can draw upon plays or art pieces that portray consent related scenarios to imbed for cross sectional knowledge.
- Ask sport teachers to discuss how we show consent in sport i.e. shaking head, crossing hands, saying don't pass etc.

## Online safety

### Learning objective

Students investigate strategies that promote safe practices online.

### Take Home Messages

- It is important to know how to protect our privacy online.
- People can use strategies to make informed choices and stay safe online.
- Making informed choices helps to make us safer.

### Curriculum Links

#### [WA Curriculum](#)

HPE: Being healthy, safe and active

- Strategies that promote a safe, healthy lifestyle.

#### [International technical guidance on sexuality education](#)

Key concept 4.3 Safe use of information and communication technologies (9-12 years)

- Internet and social media use require special care and consideration.

### Materials

- Student Activity Sheet: [Safe or risky?](#) [one per student]
- Video: [Cybersmart Detectives](#) (9min 50 sec)

### Before You Get Started

- Communicating online is a popular form of communication used by young people today, with their personal identity and profiles becoming increasingly accessible to strangers. It is important that the positives of online communication are highlighted as strongly as the potential issues. Year five students may not have mobile phones or be accessing the internet unsupervised, however they should be developing a strong sense and good understanding of safe and/or risky online behaviours.
- The most important lesson for young people is that they learn to be responsible with technology

and know how to use it safely. Refer to the [Social Media: Cyberbullying](#) and [Social Media: Cyberstalking](#) Guides for further details.

- It is possible that a student has been involved in a traumatic experience relating to online communication. It is important that teachers are familiar with the [Dealing with disclosures](#) Guide and have a risk management strategy in place.

## Learning Activities

### Whole Class

This activity focuses on key safety messages, reinforcing the fact that young people cannot always trust people who they communicate with online and they should not meet up with them in person.

1. Explain that while using the internet to communicate can be fun and exciting, it is important to make sure that you do not share any personal information with people online.
2. We often develop personal profiles to use online for social media, online games and other networking websites. Ask students to raise their hand if they have ever created a personal profile or entered their name and/or personal details to gain access to a website. These profiles represent who we are and start to create our 'digital footprint'. We need to make sure that the information given is safe, and that we restrict the information shared with people who are not our trusted friends or family.
3. Ask students what they think of and/or feel when you say the words safe and risky:
  - Safe: protected, secure, ok/all right, free from being hurt, injured or in 'harms way'
  - Risky: exposed to danger, dangerous, unsafe, taking a loss
4. Watch [Cybersmart Detectives](#) (9min 50 sec).

### Discuss:

- What information should Sarah not have included on her profile? (her school; a photo with her uniform)
- When should you get an adult involved with a friend's problem?
- Discuss the dangers of talking to people online that you don't know in person.

### Independent or Small Group

Students compile a personal profile suitable to be posted online and identify what information should be included and excluded.

1. Hand out one copy per student of the [Safe or risky?](#) student activity sheet. Students can draw an image for their profile picture and think of a safe profile name that best describes them. Model how to complete the activity to the whole class by completing the first 3 questions together and then rating whether it is 'Safe' or 'Risky' to provide this information. Students then complete the activity on their own or in pairs, rating each question or statement about their personal information and photo sharing as either safe or risky.
2. Go through the answers as a class explaining that some online 'friends' might be pretending to be someone they are not. They might actually turn out to be really mean, or a bully, they could also be trying to get information about you, your family and your friends to steal money, or for other unsafe reasons. Some adults might try to trick you into thinking they are someone your own age.

### Teacher support notes:



Safe profiles could include:

- First name or nickname
- Hobbies and interests with no specific details
- Only photos where specific details cannot be identified, for example club name, uniforms or location
- Likes and dislikes, such as music, movies or food.

Information can be risky when it includes:

- Full name
- Full names of friends or family members
- Age
- Name of your school or sporting club
- Photos that can easily identify you such as those showing you in your school uniform
- Home address
- Home or mobile number

### **3-2-1 Reflection**

Tell students that it is never okay to meet up with a stranger you met online without taking a parent or trusted adult with you. You should always check with a trusted adult if someone online asks about something that makes you worried or makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Ask:

- Who are the trusted adults in your life?
- What are some of the signs that something doesn't 'feel right'?
- What are some of the things that might happen that make you think what you are doing, or being asked about/of, is unsafe?