



Best-Laid Plans Worksheet

TEACHER GUIDANCE SHEET

Required Material:

- ▶ Pens / Pencils
- ▶ Best-Laid Plans Worksheet

L.O:

- ▶ I understand that even if I plan carefully for something, things can go wrong.
- ▶ I understand the importance of planning for the worst and have a contingency plan in place for my goals.

STARTING ACTIVITY (5mins)

GROUP DISCUSSION – Together talk about times when our plans have fallen through. Ask the children to share how this made them feel.

MAIN TEACHING (10mins)

Introduce the children to the term “best laid plans of mice and men”. A line from a poem by poet, Robert Burns about a farmer apologising to a mouse for destroying his house. Tell the children that this line is used nowadays in reference to the fact that no matter how well we plan for something, there is still a chance that something may go wrong.

Have the children think to back to the group discussion about times when things didn't exactly go to plan, and what they could have done to avoid the situation or plan for the worst case scenario.

Highlight the term “worst case scenario” and tell the children that whilst we usually just plan for the ideal scenario or what we want to happen, it can be helpful to also plan for the worst. Because if it does happen, at least we are prepared.

MAIN TASK - Best-Laid Plans (15mins)

Tell the children that we will be writing out a plan for something that we want to happen. This could be something we want to do over the weekend, or a lifelong ambition.

Now introduce them to the word “contingency” and how this is a back up plan that we can have in place should we not be able to get exactly what we want or what we planned for.

It can be hard to think about a worst case scenario, or not achieving our goals. However, planning for this happening means that if it does we can act and either use our ‘plan B’ to continue on to our desired goal, or enact our contingency plan, which consists of an alternative achievement or goal. That way we will be less disappointed and will always make progress one way or another.

Using the Best-Laid Plans template, have the children take their plan and think of a best and worst case scenario, a plan B as well as a contingency. Tell them they can use this template for all their big plans.

PLENARY (2mins)

GROUP DISCUSSION – Ask for volunteers to share their plans and explain their plan B and contingency.

DID YOU KNOW!

Did you know that the spikes on the end of a Stegasaurus' tail is called a Thagomizer. Named as a joke in a comic strip and then adopted by science as its actual name. Find out more about these dinosaurs in the Fun Physics lesson.



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CHILDREN'S SHEET

Make a plan of what you would like to do, maybe something at the weekend or a lifelong ambition.

Now use this template to think of the best case scenario, the worst case scenario and what your plan B is for this to still achieve your goal, as well as a contingency plan, which will be your backup if you cannot reach your primary goal.

