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**Theme : « Say it with a letter/communication »**

In this theme, we learn about the mail, we see how you write a letter and an envelop, we discover how a letter gets from one person to another.

A week before the theme starts, I inform the parents that we gonna learn about mail, letters, communication. I ask them to participate and to write a letter to their son or daughter. But they have to keep it a secret, it has to be a complete secret for their kid! Grandparents, neighbours, friends,… they can also write and make our theme a success.

In class, I start the theme by asking an older child to come to our class and ask something. However, when the kid comes, he forgot what he had to ask. I send him back to his teacher to ask it again. This continues 2 times, each time the kid “forgets” what he has to ask.

I ask my pupils how we can solve this problem. They come to: write it down on a note.

And so we come to the center of our theme. Why do people write? How do they do it? Which rules do you have to follow? How do you write in a polite way?

Before we begin, I ask the children what they would like to learn, which questions they have considering this issue. I write it al down in a word document. When we finish this theme, we look back and see if we can answer our own questions by now.

Lessons in this theme:

- explore some mail: letters, cards, envelopes

- parts of an envelope: receiver and sender, who is who?

- learn to write your own address (address cards for each pupil)

- how does a letter gets from one person to another? (we play it in the classroom and make

 a drawing on the chalkboard)

- a walk to the mailbox, I like to do it when the mailman comes to get the mail.

- invite a mailman to the classroom

- explore a lot of stamps: what do they have in common, how are they different, what ‘s the

 use of a stamp,…

- create a new stamp, following some rules

- watch a dvd (issued by the Belgian Post)

- opening a mail office in the classroom: letters, envelopes, stamps. I make an addressbook

 for each pupil. They can write letters to each other. They have to fill in the envelope

 correctly and post it in the big red mailbox in our classroom. Each day the mailman (= the

 teacher) empties the mailbox and puts the letters in the pupils mailbox. If the envelope is

 not correct, it’s “return to sender”. In this way, they exercise writing addresses and making

 correct letters. The mailboxes stay in the class for the rest of the year.

- everyday I’m handing out the letters that came for the pupils. They are extremely excited

 about that! They read and cherish their cards and letters like a little baby. It is a delight to

 see that!

- at the end of the theme, we write a letter back to our parents. Now it’s their time to be

 surprised!

- play a cooperative game (mix and match) in preparation of the test

- earlier, I visited a mailoffice. But they don’t allow visits anymore…