

At family events which welcome all ages – fêtes, fairs, coffee mornings etc – there is often very little to amuse or occupy the under 6s. When parents want a well-deserved sit down to chat over a cup of coffee, the children quickly become bored. So colouring-in opportunities or books to look at can be a godsend to the parents, and fun for the children.

Ingredients:

- **Appropriate books** – the bigger the choice the happier the children will be. GLADE has a large collection of children's books which address global issues in appropriate ways, or simply help children learn about children in other countries. They are chosen to avoid stereotyping or very negative images of poorer people. They cater for a wide range of ages – from picture books with very few words and story books for parents to read to children, to simple, colourful books which children can read for themselves.
- **Colouring-in sheets.** GLADE has developed some appropriate photocopyable resources which again help small children to understand our large and diverse world. Google “Free colouring-in” to search for appropriate images. http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/coloring_pages.htm might prove fruitful – but take care to make sure your images are neither negative nor stereotyping.
- Soft black pencils, coloured pencils – with lots of colour choice, chubby crayons for very small children, pencil sharpener, stickers. (We suggest you avoid felt tips even though the children like them – or have them under your control and check with parents first that the children may use them.)
- Handout booklist with extra details of publishers who produce books of this sort.

Method:

length of time; as long as it takes to drink a cup of coffee!

Age range: under 6s

Just leave the books and the colouring-in things on a few of the refreshments tables. Point them out to parents as appropriate. If you can do so without interrupting conversations, chat to the parents. You will find many are interested in the books, and didn't know books like this existed. Many are keen to find more.

Sometimes parents are there with the child and no other adults and welcome someone to talk to while their child is occupied – and this is a chance to engage in conversation about global issues.

Global issues raised: You can choose books and colouring in to reflect any theme.

Additional resources: You might need something a bit more grown up for the 5-6 year olds. See <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-schools/Fairtrade> for a little fair trade book made by folding a piece of A4 Or let the child make a “Fortune Teller” - adapt to any global theme. See http://www.kiddiesgames.com/en/chatterbox_words.php You could create your own resources such as photo-jigsaws, very simple quizzes or word searches etc – think of the things in the small activity packs children are given in child-friendly restaurants, and emulate but with a global issue theme.



Where to use this global bite: Any family event where parents are likely to sit down for a cup of coffee and a chat.