

INTRODUCTION TO THE IRIE CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES BOOK





The IRIE Classroom Toolbox

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WHAT IS THE IRIE CLASSROOM TOOLBOX?

The **IRIE Classroom Toolbox** is a training programme for teachers of children aged 3-8 years.

The aims of the **IRIE Classroom Toolbox** are:

For Teachers

- To increase teachers' use of appropriate behaviour management strategies
- To reduce teachers' use of harsh discipline practices
- To increase teacher self-efficacy
- To reduce teacher burn-out
- To improve teachers' relationships with parents

For the Quality of the Classroom Environment

- To decrease classwide behaviour problems
- To increase classwide prosocial skills
- To improve the quality of the classroom environment

For Individual Children

- To decrease behaviour problems
- To increase social-emotional competence
- To increase self-regulation
- To increase school readiness skills



MATERIALS FOR TEACHERS IN THE IRIE CLASSROOM TOOLBOX

The **IRIE Classroom Toolbox** includes a resource pack for teachers.

- This book, the **IRIE Classroom Activities** book is part of this resource pack and includes the following:
 - Lesson plans to help teachers teach classroom rules, friendship skills, and emotions.
 - Games to help children develop skills they need to do well in school (*e.g. learning to listen, wait, and follow instructions*).
 - Ideas of how to integrate activities to promote children's social and emotional skills into everyday teaching and learning activities.
 - Songs to reinforce the concepts introduced through the IRIE Classroom Toolbox.

Other resources for teachers in the IRIE Classroom Toolbox include:

- An **IRIE Classroom Tools** book describing all the Tools that are introduced in the Toolbox and providing guidance on how and why to use each one.
- Fourteen **IRIE Classroom Social Problem-Solving Stories**. These are pictorial stories of common problems faced by children in school and how to overcome them (*e.g. how to share materials, waiting for a turn, and working together*). Each story comes with a one-page guide giving the aims, key vocabulary, discussion points, and suggested questions.
- An **IRIE Classroom Resources** book for teachers including:
 - Pictures to use as visual aids when teaching classroom rules, friendship skills, and emotions. These are available in black and white and in colour.
 - Pictures to make a responsibility chart: to allocate classroom responsibilities to children.
 - Pictures to make a chart showing the sequence of daily activities.
 - Behaviour planning forms: including forms to make individual and classwide behaviour plans.
 - IRIE notes: to send positive notes home to parents.



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This is a book of ideas. You can use this book for:

1. Scripted **lesson plans** for explicitly teaching classroom rules, friendship skills, and emotional skills to children.
2. **Ideas for games to play.**
 - a. These games can be used with the whole class, and will help children learn some of the foundational skills they need to do well in school.
 - b. The games are quick to play. Some games do not require any materials, while some use materials that are easily available in the classroom.
 - c. The games can be used during transition periods or when children need a wiggle break.
3. **Ideas for activities** to encourage children to practice friendship skills and to reinforce children's understanding of emotions. Many of these activities can be integrated into ongoing teaching and learning activities.
4. **Songs** to reinforce the skills taught through the IRIE Classroom Toolbox including songs to be used for greeting, during transitions, to promote friendship skills, about emotions, and to use as wiggle breaks.