

# 3C Parents' day

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## Type of activity

Speaking. Group or pair work.

## Aim

To practise being tactful.

## Task

To simulate a parents' visiting day at a school.

## Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each group or pair.

## Timing

40–50 minutes

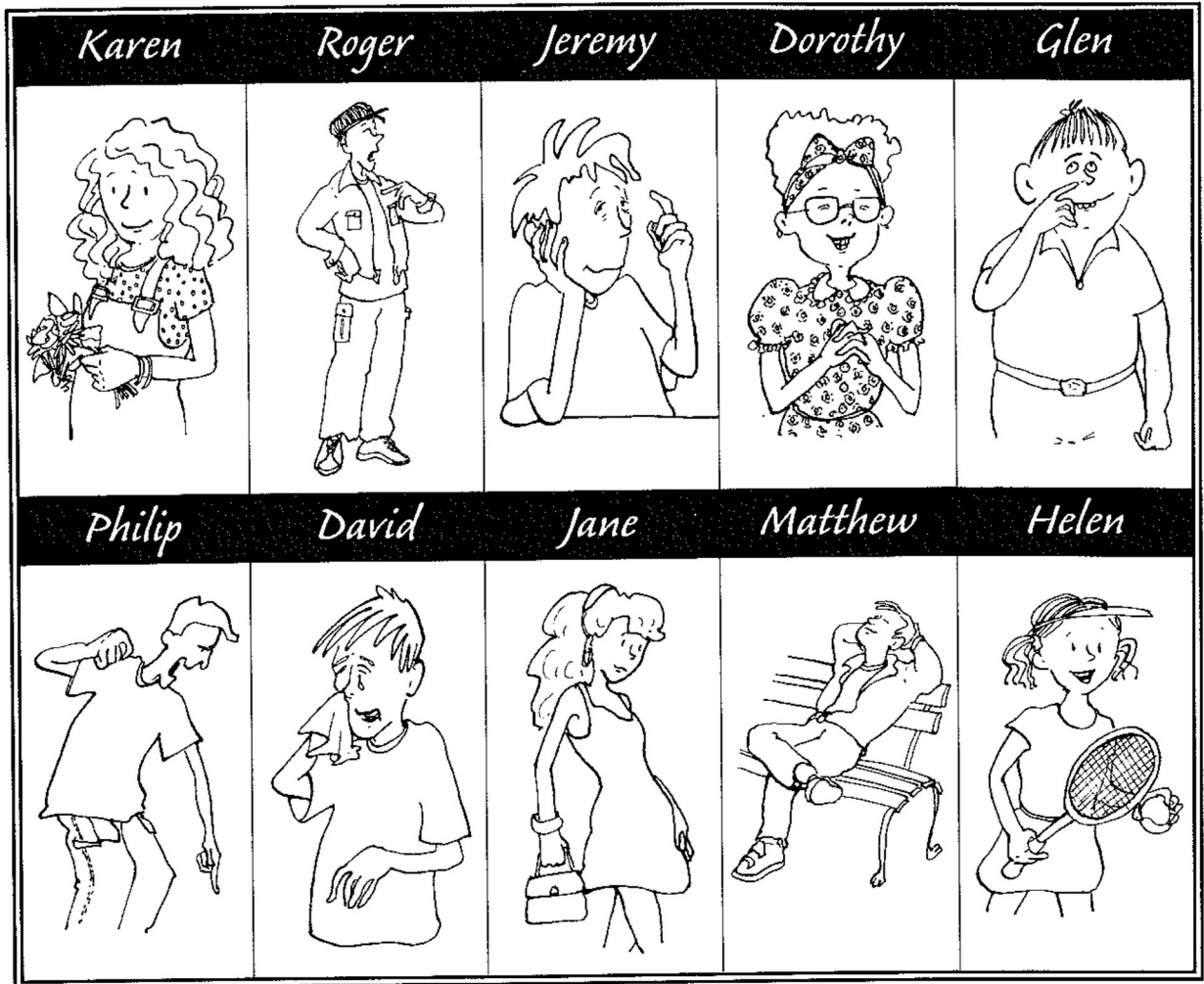
## Procedure

- 1 Introduce the idea of parents' day (i.e. that parents visit the school and ask the different teachers how their children are doing).
- 2 Divide the class into pairs or groups. Hand out one set of pictures to each pair or group and put the following subjects on the board: art, maths, science, computers, English, sport. Ask the students to use the 'useful language' (+ any of their own) to describe each pupil from their appearance in the pictures (e.g. *Karen is very good at maths, quite popular, very hard-working, she likes science*, etc.). Note that students may need help with the qualifying adverbs (e.g. 'very nice' is possible, but 'absolutely nice' is not).
- 3 Compare the ideas of each pair/group.
- 4 Introduce the idea of the 'nice/tactful' teacher and the 'strict/tactless' teacher. Elicit how each would describe one of the students. For example:

Tactful:	Tactless:
<i>Matthew tends to be late.</i>	<i>Matthew is always late.</i>
<i>Matthew can be a bit quiet at times.</i>	<i>Matthew is boring.</i>
<i>Matthew is not particularly/exactly talkative.</i>	<i>Matthew never talks.</i>

- 5 Divide the students into two equal groups: one group of parents (allocate one pupil picture to each parent) and one group of teachers (teachers decide if they are tactful or tactless). Move the teachers to different areas of the room. Parents then visit each teacher and get a report on their son or daughter (teachers give information about all subjects – they can say whatever they choose about any students).
- 6 After finishing, ask the parents which teachers were tactful and which were tactless and why.

# Parents' day



Useful words and phrases:

can be ...	hard-working	kind	clever
tends to be ...	confident	terrible	nice
isn't exactly ...	fit	naughty	lovely
isn't particularly	talkative	creative	overconfident
absolutely	selfish	late	lazy
really	strong	weak	competitive
very	average	aggressive	absent-minded
quite	ambitious	slow	stupid
a bit	self-centred	big-headed	over-sensitive
not very	interested in _____ ing		
not at all	good/excellent at _____ ing		
	bad/awful at _____ ing		