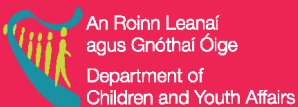




Youth Work Ireland

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

Youth Work Ireland Week
National Activity Pack



www.youthworkireland.ie

“There are no extra pieces in the Universe. Everyone is here because they have a place to fill, and every piece must fit itself into the big jigsaw puzzle”

Deepak Chopra

Introducing the Pieces of the Puzzle Activity

A central element of Youth Work Ireland Week every year is the national activity that is run in youth clubs, projects and services across the Youth Work Ireland family. This year in conjunction with Youth Wave, we are inviting clubs, services and projects to take part in the ‘Pieces of the Puzzle’ activity during Youth Work Ireland Week, which runs from Saturday May 11th - Saturday May 18th. The activity is an interactive, arts-based and fun session that will allow young people decorate their very own puzzle piece to express themselves, their individual identity and the uniqueness of their club/group.

The aim of the activity is to support young people express the positive outcomes they gain from being part of a youth group particularly around the five outcomes listed in Better Outcomes Brighter Futures – Active and Healthy; Achieving, Safe, Economic Security and Connected/Respected.

The activity can be done in any youth work setting by both workers and volunteers for very little expense and young people of all ages can take part both individually or in groups.

A selection of the completed puzzle pieces will form part of a larger national installation display at Youth Wave on October 5th in Athlone IT.

‘Pieces of the Puzzle’ Messaging

The messaging behind the activity is about the uniqueness of each young person, and about how they can connect to the wider world through their participation in a youth group. Some things to point out to your group...

- We all have a place in the world, each one of us is different, but we are all part of a larger world.
- We all have talents, skills and gifts and each of us has something unique to contribute to the world.
- Everyone has an individual story and every story is different but put together we become one.
- When we go to our youth group we are one of many, and our group is part of a county service which is also part of the national membership of Youth Work Ireland.
- Participation in youth groups has a positive impact on the lives of young people.

‘Pieces of the Puzzle’ Process

1. Regional club workers will receive and distribute puzzle pieces and activity packs to youth groups in April.
2. Youth workers and volunteers leading the activity are asked to do a plan-do-review session as part of Youth Wave (see table on pg. 3). This is to ensure they are clear on what the requirements are for this programme.
3. Youth workers must have a brief pre-session with young people to talk them through the aims and objectives of the activity.
4. It is a good idea to allow young people map out their ideas on a piece of paper before they begin to decorate the puzzle piece.
5. Young people then get to decorate the puzzle piece anyway they want. They can paint, draw, write words, create a collage of images from magazines or club outings, mixed media, fabric... (NO GLITTER – any puzzle with glitter will not be displayed at Youth Wave due to restrictions by Athlone IT).
6. Once the young people are done decorating their puzzle pieces, assemble them into a large puzzle feature which can be stuck on a wall or laid out on the floor.
7. Please capture this by taking photos and videos and uploading them to social media and tagging Youth Work Ireland.

Youth Wave Requirements



- For the purpose of Youth Wave the entire process must be documented by taking photos, videos and compiling stories which evidence the young people's journey of taking part in this activity.
- These must be emailed to gmoore@youthworkireland.ie
- MYS club workers must organise a regional event to display their clubs and projects puzzle pieces sometime between May and 2nd September 2019.
- After the regional event, choose a selection of puzzle pieces (no more than 50) that you feel best represent the young people's experiences of participating in their youth club or group – please keep focused on the outcome of BOBF to ensure all 5 outcomes are represented.
- These pieces should be returned to Geraldine Moore at Youth Work Ireland National Office by 6th September 2019 as these pieces will feature in the national installation at Youth Wave in October.

	PLAN	DO	REVIEW
AT A REGIONAL LEVEL	<p>YOUTH WORKERS SHOULD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and plan how the pieces from all the clubs will be displayed and feed into a regional event, including what this event will look like, where will it take place and who will be invited. • Invite local guests to your event i.e. local councillors, local TDs, business owners etc. • Use this as an opportunity to promote your work and to promote the value of youth work in local communities. • Plan how to coordinate the photos and videos, who will be responsible and what the process will be. 	<p>YOUTH WORKERS SHOULD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute the puzzle pieces and activity pack to all groups and ensure workers and volunteers are clear about the activity and desired outcomes. • The activity should be photographed before – during – afterwards as evidence of the process. • You must promote the event on social media using the hashtag #ywiouthwave • Invite guest or other community groups to take part. • Get your young people to talk about their pieces to the invited guests. 	<p>REVIEW AND REFLECTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the event go well? • What did the groups get out of the events? • Did all groups participate in the activity? • How could we improve on the activity?
AT A CLUB LEVEL	<p>PLANNING THE SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers and volunteers leading the session should be sure of what their task is. • Explore with the young people what they want to use their piece to express. • Talk to the young people about their experiences of going to their youth group, what they like about it and what they get from it. • The workers needs to make sure the young people are clear about what the activity is trying to evidence, and young people need to be aware of why they are doing the activity. • Talk to the young people about the messaging behind this activity. 	<p>DOING THE ACTIVITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This activity is to take place during one or more youth club sessions. • Young people are free to express and decorate their piece as they want. • Give the young people a page to map out what they want to work on their puzzle piece. • <u>The young person must write their name, youth club and youth service on the back of their puzzle piece.</u> • The young people get to decorate their piece any way they like. • The activity should be photographed before – during – afterwards as evidence of the process. 	<p>REVIEW WITH YOUNG PEOPLE:</p> <p>Discuss how the young people got on with the activity, by asking them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did you come up with the ideas for decorating the puzzle piece? • How did you work on it? • What meanings and messages are you trying to convey? • What did you enjoy about the activity? • How could we improve it?

Demonstrating the Evidence of Youth Work

Through the 'Pieces of the Puzzle' activity we aim at capturing the uniqueness and identity of youth clubs, groups and projects in the Youth Work Ireland Federation and how they are part of something bigger than themselves. This massive display of colour, individuality and creativeness will also demonstrate the collective strength of Youth Work Ireland.

We are asking all clubs/groups who participate to document the activity on social media by sharing, tweeting and posting the 'Pieces of the Puzzle' process and the regional or local events you organise as part of Youth Wave. Make sure to tag Youth Work Ireland on all posts

www.facebook.com/youthworkireland

www.instagram.com/youthworkireland

Twitter - @ywirl

If you are tweeting, please include the hashtag #YWIYOUTHWAVE #youthworkworks

The photos, videos and stories must be sent to gmoore@youthworkireland.ie anytime from May to Sept. 6th. Those clubs that take part in the plan do review (videos, photos and stories) for Youth Wave will be entered into a competition for a €200 One4All voucher for their club.

**This activity pack is available as a pdf download at
www.youthworkireland.ie**

THE PUZZLE ART INSTALLATION & COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

"There are no extra pieces of the universe.
Everyone is here because he or she has
a place to fill, and every piece must fit
itself into the big jigsaw puzzle (of life)."

- Deepak Chopra

Puzzle Project Coordinated by

TIM KELLY

www.timkellyartist.com



This activity was inspired by The Puzzle Art Installation & Collaborative Project in New York created artist Tim Kelly and Sandy Taylor for the Monmouth County Teen Arts Festival in 2009.

We would like to thank Tim for his assistance and permission for Youth Work Ireland to be part of the international project.



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#ywiouthwave