

Teacher & Parent Lesson Plan: All Kinds of Homes — Exploring Belonging, Safety & Togetherness

Age range: 5–9 years

Theme: Homes, belonging, diversity, feelings, relationships

Story connection: Dord’s mouse Autumn has a tiny home, and the bugs in the garden have their own special places too — but what truly matters is *who* they share their world with.

Learning Objectives

Children will:

- Explore different types of homes and understand that homes can look very different.
 - Recognise that a home is not defined by size, shape, or location, but by **belonging, safety, and the people (or creatures!) we care about.**
 - Build empathy by learning that families and homes come in many forms.
 - Express their own feelings about what makes them feel safe and loved.
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1. Warm-Up: What Makes a Home?

Begin with a gentle, inclusive discussion.

Ask:

- “What makes a home feel like a home?”
- “Is it the building... or the people you’re with?”
- “Where do you feel safe, cosy, or cared for?”

Guide children to ideas like:

- Love
- Safety
- People who look after you
- Pets
- Favourite things
- Comfort

- Belonging

Story link:

Autumn the mouse has a tiny home, but what matters most is that she feels safe with Dord.

The bugs in the garden live in different places, but they all belong in the same happy world.

 **2. Exploring Different Types of Homes (Human Homes)**

Show or describe a range of homes:

- Houses
- Flats
- Cottages
- Caravans
- Houseboats
- Shelters
- Shared homes
- Homes with one parent, two parents, grandparents, carers, siblings, or friends

Key message:

Homes look different for everyone.

Families look different too — and all are equally important and valid.

Discussion prompts:

- “Who might live here?”
- “What makes this home special?”
- “How might people help each other feel safe inside this home?”

This builds empathy and normalises diversity.

 **3. Animal & Bug Homes: Everyone Belongs Somewhere**

Introduce the idea that animals also have homes that suit their needs.

Examples:

- Birds → nests

- Bees → hives
- Mice → burrows
- Bugs → under leaves, logs, or inside flowers
- Hedgehogs → piles of leaves

Talking point:

“Even though their homes look different, each creature has a place where it feels safe.”

Story link:

“What kind of home would Autumn the mouse choose?”

“Where might the musical bugs feel most at home in the garden?”

 **4. Creative Task: Design a Home of Belonging**

Children design a home that makes someone feel safe and loved.

They can choose:

- Themselves
- A friend
- An animal
- A bug
- A character from Bob & Julie’s world

Encourage them to think about:

- Who lives there
- What makes it cosy
- What helps them feel safe
- What makes them feel they belong

This shifts the focus from *what a home looks like* to *how a home feels*.

 **5. Sorting Activity: Homes & Feelings**

Create a sorting or matching activity.

Categories might include:

- Homes that move / homes that stay still

- Homes for one / homes for many
- Homes in warm places / homes in cold places
- Feelings connected to home: safe, cosy, happy, calm

Children can match pictures, words, or emotions.

This supports emotional literacy and understanding of diversity.

6. Reflection: What Helps You Feel You Belong?

Invite children to share something meaningful:

- A person who makes them feel safe
- A favourite place in their home
- A routine that makes them feel cared for
- A pet or toy that brings comfort

Key message:

A home is not just walls and a roof.

A home is where you feel loved, accepted, and safe.