Adult guide

Small sayings. Big ideas.

A practical guide for teachers, parents and other adults helping children.

Choose by the learner, not just the age. The age bands are suggestions. Offer reading support, drawing, speaking or a scribed answer as needed.

5-7

Colour, draw and help

3 A4 sheets | 10-20 min per sheet

Crayons or pencils; scissors for an adult.

7-9

Match, think and make

3 A4 sheets | 15-25 min per sheet

Pencil; proverb posters or adult reading support.

9-12

Think, create and write

3 A4 sheets | 20-30 min per sheet

Pencils; optional coloured pencils.

All ages

Classroom display posters

3 designs, A4 + A3 | Use during discussion

White paper; colour printing if available.

A simple opening routine

1. Show one saying and read its English meaning.
2. Invite a familiar or imaginary example.
3. Offer the task, then share ideas without ranking children.
4. Return to the saying: what does it help us notice?

Free for personal and classroom use.

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Colour, talk, connect

Using the 5-7 and 7-9 activity sheets. Try one page at a time.

Ages 5-7: give ideas room to grow

Page 1: Look before colouring. Ask, "What is each animal doing? What would be harder alone?" Invite pointing, gesture or a spoken answer. Colours are the child's choice.

Page 2: Offer an imaginary helper if personal examples feel uncomfortable. The adult can write the child's own words on the lines.

Page 3: Each child draws or writes one helpful action. An adult supports cutting along the leaf outline. Add the leaves to a large trunk drawn on spare paper to make a shared display.

Ages 7-9: make meaning before testing recall

Before page 1: Show the three posters, or read all three sayings and meanings together. Explain that these are complete sayings; children are not matching individual Irish words.

Page 2: Read the stories aloud if helpful. Ask for a reason, not just a letter. More than one saying can fit a situation.

Page 3: Talk through the sequence, then let children plan a drawing, a tidy-up or another small classroom project.

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Think, explain, reflect

Support for older learners and answer notes for the matching activities.

Ages 9-12: encourage reasons

Page 1: Distinguish physical shelter from social support. Ask how the two pictures connect; either can use imaginary characters.

Page 2: The comic should show why working together matters. Speech bubbles, captions and stick figures are all welcome.

Page 3: There is no single correct position. Look for a claim, an example and a reason. A good plan can help, but action, support and revision matter too. "Half done" is figurative, not a measurement.

Ages 7-9: answer notes

Page 1 - meanings: 1 -> B; 2 -> C; 3 -> A.

Page 2 - suggested choices: 1 -> A (shared effort); 2 -> B (welcome and support); 3 -> C (preparation). Accept another choice when the explanation makes sense.

Page 3 - useful order: B, D, A, C: understand the job, plan, gather materials, begin.

Extend or simplify

Less writing: let a child explain, point, sketch or dictate.
More challenge: compare two sayings or suggest a situation where advice needs limits.
Finish: invite one voluntary example of something the learner noticed.

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Words you can check

Sources, printing notes and responsible use of this first collection.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine

We live in one another's shelter.

Ireland.ie, "11 seanfhocail" - 11 seanfhocail (proverbs) that unlock timeless wisdom through the Irish language

Ní neart go cur le chéile

There is strength in unity.

Ó Dónaill (1977), s.v. neart - Foclóir Gaeilge–Béarla

Tús maith leath na hoibre

Well begun is half done.

Ó Dónaill (1977), s.v. tús - Foclóir Gaeilge–Béarla

Print and use

Print activity pages single-sided on A4 at 100% / actual size. Use the A3 poster file for A3 paper and the A4 file for A4 paper. All pages have printer margins. Worksheets work in greyscale; colour is optional. You may copy these files for your own classroom or personal use; please keep the source credits.

Irish wording and English meanings are drawn from the site's existing published records. English activity prompts are new. No new Irish translation or synthetic audio is supplied. Use a confident Irish speaker or credited human recordings for pronunciation support.

Preview edition: practical materials for adult-led trial and feedback. Age bands and timings are suggestions; no curriculum endorsement or formal classroom trial is claimed. The design draws on playful talk, drawing and writing as described in the NCCA Language curriculum.

Original garden illustration: fixed AI-generated artwork, prepared with the built-in image tool and reviewed for this pack. Text is separately typeset, not generated in the picture. Typeface: Source Sans 3 (SIL Open Font License). Other diagrams and page layouts: Seanfhocail.ie.

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