

# Donkey

**Themes include:** bullying, care, compassion, independent thinking, leadership, acceptance, trying new things, co-operation

**Inspired by:** a Jewish rabbinical story

## Opening Words

Are you ready for a story?

*From now on keep your eyes looking down.*

Let's turn this upside down.

Now we have time to breathe.

In a circle of trust we listen and explore feelings.

There's space to wonder and play, in love.

Your story, my story, our story. Let's be curious about this story.



Words	Actions (storyteller's perspective)
There was once a village	<i>Create a smooth surface in the sand - starting in the centre and moving outwards in circles. Trace buildings - three in a line furthest from you and two in a line near to you. The centre should be in the middle of the circle.</i>
with narrow streets.	<i>Show with your finger the narrow streets.</i>
People would come in from the nearby farms to sell their fruit and vegetables.	<i>Place three people on the right and three on the left. Move them towards the centre.</i>
But one time when they came, a donkey was blocking the way.	<i>Put the donkey down firmly in the middle of the village facing to your right.</i>
When the people tried to pass this way	<i>Move the three people along the street coming in from your right.</i>
the donkey bit.	<i>Lean donkey forward, as if it's trying to bite the person.</i>
And when the people tried to pass that way	<i>Move each person along the street coming in from your left.</i>
the donkey kicked.	<i>Lean donkey forward, as if trying to kick the person behind.</i>
The donkey bit, and kicked.	<i>Tilt donkey forward and backwards a few times, as if biting and kicking..</i>
Soon there was a crowd of people on either side, they couldn't pass by and they didn't know what to do.	
Finally they said, "Let's ask our leader. Our leader will know what to do."	

<b>Words</b>	<b>Actions</b> (storyteller's perspective)
The leader came,	<i>Place a person near you and walk them to the donkey.</i>
looked at the donkey and looked at the people on both sides of the donkey	<i>Look at people on either side and look at the donkey. Look at the whole scene.</i>
and said, "I will go another way."	

*Please see our training resources or come on an OutoftheBox course to develop in the art of holding a safe and brave space for contemplation, reflection and dialogue.*

### **Wondering**

*You are now engaging with the group so look up, and say: Let's be curious about how we feel.*

I wonder what part of this story you like?

I wonder what part you don't like?

I wonder what the story reminds you of?

### **Community Play**

*Facilitate play with the materials to further explore feelings and to focus on an issue or idea, e.g.*

*How are you feeling? or What does your day look like? or What does your community look like?*

*Where are the donkeys?*

*What are the blocks?*

*What might the donkey need?*

*Is the donkey leaving marks anywhere?*

*What other ways around are there?*

*What might the donkey need?*

*You may invite people to place themselves in the picture using one of the wooden figures.*

### **Closing Words**

*Before the story is put away, ask: Is there anything else that needs to be said or done?*

*Hold out your hands as you say: For all that's been said and for all that's not been said - thank you.*

*Invite participants to remove the objects they put down, then put the other objects away in reverse order.*

### **Personal Response**

*Time to play and contemplate, e.g. in movement, art & craft, writing, playing with the story materials.*

### **Celebration**

*Share food and drink to allow people to connect socially and prepare to leave the session.*