

# Exploring Big Ideas

[Red Hook Public Library](#)

Children

|

Tweens (10-12)

## Exploring Big Ideas

Sep 7, 2023

Byline

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Exploring Big Ideas is a six-week philosophy program for kids. Using characters and images, the program aims to help children with communication and reasoning skills in a discussion-based class.

### Advanced Planning

The learning outcomes for the program are for kids to:

- explore philosophy with different crafts and activities
- use philosophy to help improve communication skills
- learn how to give strong reasonings behind opinions
- work together to come to a shared answer

I started doing research and planning about a month in advance. The activities are adapted from "[Philosophy for Young Children: A Practical Guide](#)" and I got many great ideas from "[Little Big Minds](#)."

Since I created weekly lesson plans (attachments on the right sidebar), development of this program at other libraries shouldn't take long.

## **Marketing**

We started promoting the event about a month in advance on our social media and in our newsletter. However, one of the main problems we had was engagement. Finding more ways to advertise would be a great aspect to add to this program.

## **Budgeting**

All resources needed were already available at the library.

## **Day-of-event Activity**

To set up for the event, I made sure I had a whiteboard to write on as well as paper, crayons and markers. The main activity was drawing and didn't require many other things. There is only one staff member needed.

## **Program Execution**

A max of five kids attended this program. The class always felt constructive, successful and kids loved the hands-on aspect. Parents and students told me they thought the class was a great idea.

I used the lesson plans as a guide, but adjusted them to the children's interests and what they wanted to discuss

In the six weeks of running the Exploring Big Ideas program, the greatest impact that I could observe was the kids getting to discuss and think about different concepts together. I think this class will only continue to serve as a great resource if it expands and is continued at more libraries.

## **Advice**

I created basic lesson plans that focused on encouraging discussion. Just letting the kids speak with each other and encouraging them to give reasons for their answers created a great environment.

I would advise letting the kids lead the discussion, even if it slightly deviates from the topic. Interacting and speaking about different problems is the basis of philosophy!

## **Supporting Materials**

Document

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Document

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Document

[ethics.pdf](#)

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[political\\_philosophy.pdf](#)

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[week\\_1\\_outline.pdf](#)

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[week\\_2\\_outline.pdf](#)

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Mar 2, 2023

Teens (13-16)+ | \$

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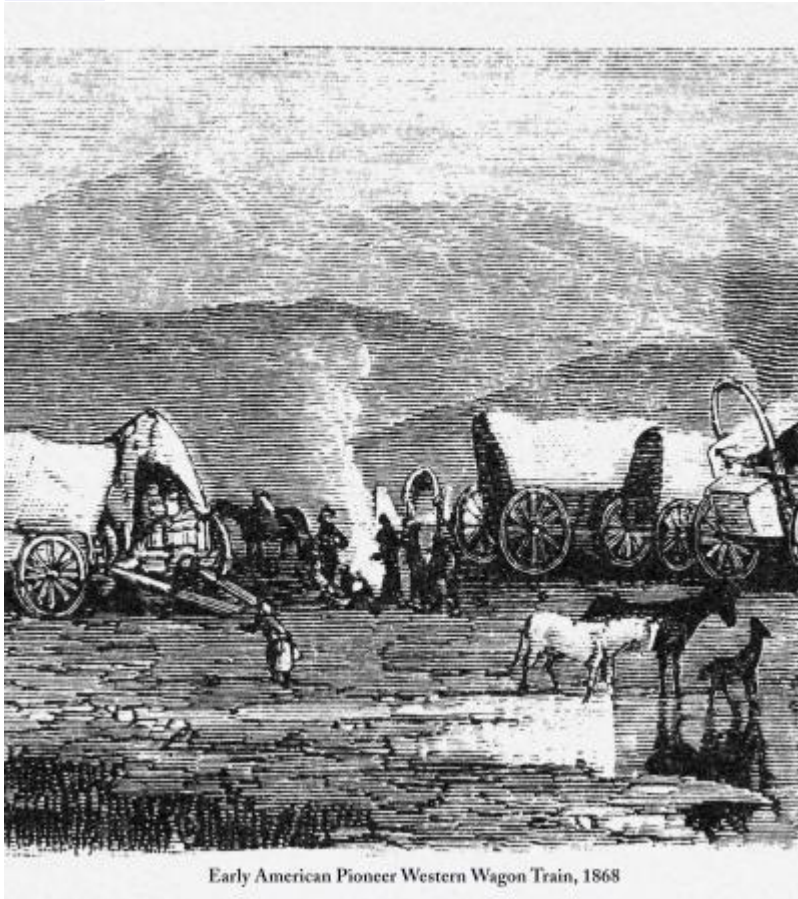
### **Audiences:**

Teens (13-16)

Aug 30, 2023

Teens (13-16)+ | \$

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## [Oregon Trail Live-Action Simulation](#)

### **Audiences:**

Teens (13-16)

Young Adult (17 - 20)