The Spoon Theory Activity



Objective: To help children understand the concept of energy levels and empathy by using the Spoon Theory as a metaphor.

What you need:

• A set of spoons!

Spoons: Give your child 10 spoons, plastic or any other spoons you have at home.

Energy allocation: Explain that each spoon represents a unit of energy for the day. Discuss different activities and tasks that require energy, such as getting dressed, doing homework, playing with friends, or helping with chores. When these get stressful, such as running late, lost homework, or difficulties with friends, we use a lot more energy, and loose a lot more spoons!

Spoon distribution: Have your child distribute the spoons across the various activities they typically do in a day. They should place a spoon next to each activity, representing the amount of energy they believe it requires.

Reflect and discuss: Once the spoons are distributed, have a conversation with your child. Ask questions like:

- How did you decide how many spoons each activity needed?
- Were there activities where you had to use more spoons? Which ones?
- How did it feel to allocate spoons and imagine having a limited amount of energy?

Empathy exercise: Encourage your child to imagine how others might feel if they had fewer spoons than needed for certain activities. Discuss the importance of understanding and being empathetic towards individuals with limited energy due to various reasons, such as health conditions or disabilities.

Optional extension: If your child is comfortable with it, you can encourage them to create a visual representation of their own energy levels on a daily or weekly basis. They can use spoons to reflect how they feel each day, helping them become more aware of their energy fluctuations.

Remember to keep the activity light-hearted and fun while fostering empathy and understanding. Adapt it to your child's age and comprehension level, and feel free to add any personal touches that resonate with your family. Enjoy exploring the Spoon Theory together!