

Early Years

Sensory Story



You may wish to use this after a short introduction to the whole class.

Resources

Resource Sheets 1A and 1B

Pair of boots - preferably walking/military style. Bowl with warm water. Soft towels. Cushions to sit on. Cups/mugs with warm tea. Cake/doughnuts.

Headbands made with strips of cardboard - one for each child to wear throughout the story. . Each band has a soldier stuck at the front, from Resource Sheet 1A.

Sensory Story

Today we are going to find out how The Salvation Army helps soldiers. We are going to start with... a pair of boots. *Show a pair of boots.* Have you ever worn a new pair of boots or shoes? Do they fit perfectly or have you had some trouble? Have they hurt your feet, pinched your toes, and rubbed your heels? Made your feet feel sore?

When you become a soldier you are given a new pair of boots and you have to march with them, run with them and stand on parade looking smart with them - all day long.

Role-play with the children, marching up and down like soldiers. How do you feel now, soldiers? How do your feet feel? *Use Resource Sheet 1B to support the children's answers throughout the story.* But we've got to keep marching! *Role-play dragging your feet and being tired.*

Our feet are hurting quite badly. But what can we do? We live in a soldiers' camp, not at home. *Look around the room.*

I know! We could go to the Salvation Army hut! *Line the group up and pretend to knock at a door.* A Salvation Army hut helper will answer the door.

Oh! Look at you poor soldiers! Come in! You look really sad. What's wrong? *Encourage the pupils to explain about the sore feet.*

You've come to the right place! I know what we can do to make you feel better! *Welcome the children in and sit them down on the cushions.*

Bring out each prop and let the children explore each object by touching.

The bowl with warm water. How does it feel? Leave your hands in there for a moment to really feel the water. Imagine how good the warm water will make your sore feet feel.

The soft towel. How does it feel? Rub your hands gently and really feel the softness of the towel. Imagine how good the soft towel will make your sore feet feel.

How are your feet feeling now, soldiers? Better? *Use Resource Sheet 1B.* Now your outside is feeling better, let's make your inside feel happier. The Salvation Army hut is famous for its cups of tea and nice things to eat.

Cups with warm tea. How does it feel? Hold the cup in your hands for a moment to really feel the heat. Can you smell it? Imagine how drinking hot tea will make your insides feel warm.

Cake/doughnuts. How does it feel? Taste how sweet the cake is. How good does the sweet cake taste?



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Over a hot cup of tea and something sweet to eat, it's a good time to have a little chat. Did you like the... I like your...

Put props away. Well, soldiers. We've been to the Salvation Army hut and they helped our feet feel better.

We've been to the Salvation Army hut and they gave us tea and cake too. How do we feel now?

Use Resource Sheet 1B

Are ready to go on our way? Salute the soldiers. Start marching!

And that's what The Salvation Army does. It gives you the help that you need and helps you feel better too.

