



# Resource guide:

## Vinnie Bear's Summer Sleep

### Activity aims:

- To raise awareness of the topic of homelessness and the work of the SVP through the eyes of Vinnie Bear.
- To give the children a chance to reflect on the topic and experience of sleeping on the floor without a pillow for the night.
- To be able to put their thoughts and experience down on paper in the form of a diary entry.

### You will need:

- Vinnie Bear or picture of Vinnie Bear
- Vinnie Bear's SVP Summer Sleep PowerPoint Presentation.
- SVP Summer Sleep Diary worksheet (1 per child)
- Pens and pencils



St Vincent  
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Turning Concern into Action



## Procedure:

- Introduce Vinnie Bear to the children:

This is Vinnie Bear, and just like you, he is a Mini Vinnie. He likes to help other people and turn concern into action and has a story to share with you today.

- Vinnie Bear's story reflects the Mini Vinnies' mission of 'See, Think, Do'.

**See:** Alongside Vinnie Bear, the children will learn some terminology connected with homelessness, learn about the reasons why someone might become homeless, facts and figures and how the SVP support those most in need.

- Read Vinnie Bear's story out loud and get the children to follow along with the slides. Stop between sections for any discussion or to answer any questions up to Vinnie Bear's diary entry.

**Think:** Vinnie Bear and his friends express their desire to help, which leads them to consider the SVP Summer Sleep. Along with Vinnie bear, the children would have thought about how to fundraise for their event, what they needed for the event and how they could tell others about what they were doing and why.

- Before they settle down for the night, explain the following:

**Vinnie Bear wants to share his diary entry about the SVP Summer Sleep. Before we hear what he has to say, I want you to think about these questions for yourself and write down your own answers.**

- Children complete questions 1-3 on 'SVP Summer Sleep Diary' worksheet under 'Before the SVP Summer Sleep' and share their thoughts.
- Now read the first part of Vinnie Bear's story to them and ask them some follow-up questions:



## Vinnie Bear's Diary Part 1:

Our school SVP Summer Sleep was in June, and we asked all of our friends and family before the big event to sponsor us so we could raise money for the SVP. Our school decided to do the SVP Summer Sleepover in our school hall. There were 30 Mini Vinnies, including me, that took part and lots of our teachers joined in too. We hung bunting around the hall and learnt a lot about homelessness and the work of the SVP in the evening.

I was excited to do the sleepover, but a little nervous about what it would be like sleeping on the floor with no pillow. My pillow at home is like a big squishy marshmallow, so I was going to miss that! I only had my sleeping bag, and the floor in the school hall was cold and hard, but I really wanted to do my best to support those people who are homeless.

### Follow-up questions:

1. When and where did Vinnie Bear do the SVP Summer Sleep?  
(In June in his school hall)
2. Who did he do the event with?  
(29 other Mini Vinnies and his teachers.)
3. How did Vinnie Bear feel before that night about sleeping on the floor without a pillow or a bed? (Excited, nervous, concerned about the cold and hard floor, but keen to help make a difference.)

**Do:** Like Vinnie Bear, the children will take part in the SVP Summer Sleep and then reflect on their own experience in the morning. Explain that you will come back to Vinnie's story in the morning to find out how his night was.

- Before reading Part 2 of Vinnie Bear's Diary Entry, ask the children to complete questions on the own diary worksheet, labelled 'After the SVP Summer Sleep'.



- Get the children to predict what Vinnie Bear might say by asking the question:

**What do you think the night was like for Vinnie Bear?**

**How did Vinnie Bear feel in the morning?**

- Read Part 2 of Vinnie Bear's Diary Entry and check their answers:

**When it was time to sleep, I snuggled down into my sleeping bag, but I couldn't get comfortable without my pillow. I could feel the cold floorboards beneath me and because there was lots of chatting and movement around me, it was hard to sleep. I woke up a couple of times in the night and tried to get comfortable for some more sleep. When I woke up in the morning it made me realise just how much I love my bed and pillow and how lucky I am to have a quiet and comfortable space where I can sleep at night. This must be so hard for people who have to sleep like this on the streets or in temporary accommodation. I hope that the money we have raised will help the SVP support all those people in need to feel safe and secure in their lives.**

- Now invite the children to reflect on their own experience and share the answers that they wrote in their own diary.

## **Consolidation:**

- Use this time to recap what they children have learnt about homelessness and what they will take away from this experience.

## **Follow-up activity:**

- You could get the children to do a piece of writing at home to tell the story of their SVP Summer Sleep experience and create a picture or painting to go with it.