‘THE NEW APPRENTICE’
HILL FARMING HERITAGE – ROLE PLAY FOR CHILDREN

Objective: The purpose of this role play is to start a discussion about Hill Farming and how each generation can bring new ideas to a way of life that has been handed down through generations.

- ***Inherited knowledge versus technology?*** Could the shepherd and his apprentice have solved the problem without each other? What would have happened if either the apprentice or the older shepherd had been left on his own to solve the problem?

- ***Hill Farming has been a way of life in the hills for hundreds of years. Is there a place for technology in hill farming?*** Shepherds have farmed the hills for hundreds of years without quads, medicine or technology. How

do you think these things have affected hill farming? Do you think you need more or less shepherds to look after 500 sheep now compared to 100 years ago?

How to use this role play: Print off one copy per character. Ask the children to read through their part and highlight their words as they go so they can get used to the story and what they have to say. Encourage the children to read the role play through once before acting it out. Children can refer to their script as they go.

CHARACTERS: The characters in the scene are:
60 year old Shepherd: MICKEY
21 year old Shepherd Apprentice: LUCY

SETTING: Two shepherds and a quad are high up on the hills. One Shepherd is bent over tending to a sheep. There is no one and nothing in sight except sheep grazing and open views of the Cheviot hills.
PROPS: Quad / Phone / Ewe (Can also be imaginary / mimed!)

Main message: Knowledge and experience are key to being a good shepherd, especially in the hills where you are far away from help and other people, but there is a place for technology too. Young people have skills they can bring to the future of hill farming.

Character	Dialogue	Comment
Mickey, the older shepherd is bent down over a ewe which is ill. Lucy, the apprentice is standing up scrolling on her phone.		
MICKEY (Shepherd)	Lucy Lass – Get off that phone and come and give me a hand here.	
LUCY (Shepherd's apprentice)	Just a minute….	

MICKEY	If you want to be a shepherd, you need to show an interest in the sheep under your nose, not be on your phone all the time! What is it this time? Snap Face? Tik Chat? Facegram?	
LUCY	No…. I'm messaging one of the other apprentices! We're at college together. He said he had a sheep that got ill like this and I was asking what he did.	
MICKEY	What are you asking him for Lass? I've spent a lifetime up on these hills with these sheep. You're here to learn from an experienced shepherd, not some young lad who doesn't know a Tup from a Yow!	
LUCY	Ok, Ok…. [PUTS PHONE AWAY] So what's the problem? What do we need to do?	
MICKEY	We need to get this sheep back down the hill. She will need proper attention down at the farm. I should have bought the trailer. It's going to take an hour to get back down, get hitched up and get back up here. Nothing for it. Off we go… [GETS UP AND HEADS TOWARDS QUAD]	

LUCY	Hang on! Cheviot Farm is just over that hill. Why don't we ask Mr. Brown if we can borrow a trailer?	
MICKEY	He only has a landline Lucy and he'll be out working. No way to get hold of him.	
LUCY	[LUCY TAPS A NUMBER INTO HER PHONE] Hello – Hello?? Rob? Hi – yes, it's Lucy! We're over to the west of your farm and we have a sheep that we need to get down the hill. Can we borrow a trailer? [PAUSE] Yes – that's great. Thanks so much! I'll send you a What-Three-Words of our exact location so you can find us easily! See you in a bit!	
MICKEY	What are you up to now?	
LUCY	I just called Rob. He's Mr Brown's apprentice – we're at college together. He's bringing the trailer over now.	

MICKEY	How will he know where to find us?	
LUCY	I sent him our exact location by phone. These phones come in useful sometimes you know!	
MICKEY	[SCRATCHES HIS HEAD] Well I guess you youngsters have a few tricks up your sleeves after all! Good work Lucy!	