

Lesson Plan for Teaching Norms through Social Circles

Grade Level: Kindergarten or 1st grade

Purpose: For students to gain understanding of the norm, “I will respect others by using positive words and actions.

Plan:

- Gather students on rug during social circle time. Read over the classroom norms with students. Do they think these norms are being followed? Say, “*We are going to do an activity together so as a class we can better understand what it means to say, ‘I will respect others by using positive words and actions’.*”
- Ask students to describe how we feel when someone gives us putdowns or uses negative words (write emotions on chart paper and have the children express feelings by making faces).
- Ask students to describe how we feel when someone gives us a put-up or uses positive words to tell us their feelings (write on chart paper)
- Ask students, *which way would we rather feel? What kinds of words should we be using? How should we be treating one another?*

Activity

- Give the students a scenario. “*Let’s say that you are out on the playground and Bertie (a class puppet or mascot) does something that makes you upset. How should we handle this? Let’s role-play. Then, we are going to write in our journals about how we could deal with this situation by using only positive words.*”
- Brainstorm some ways students can respond to Bertie without using negative words or putdowns. (For example, Bertie, “When you tell me I can’t play it hurts my feelings”).
- After brainstorming, have students go back to their seats and begin writing or drawing (if they can’t write) in their journals what they would say or do to let Bertie know how they feel without using negative words or putdowns.
- Ask for volunteers to share their journals.
- Repeat this lesson using other norms.

Assessment

- Use journals as a way to assess the students’ understanding of social skill(s)

Follow-up

- Have a list of positive words that are appropriate to use in the classroom that is added to throughout the year as additional social skills are discussed