

Kindergarten–Grade 2
Category: Peer Relationships
Topic: Respect

Thinking of Others

Background

Showing respect is an important aspect of learning to socialize and live in harmony with others. Young children can be taught basic ways to nurture their relationships while they are still learning to form friendships and to distinguish their own desires from the needs of others. A developmentally appropriate way to approach the concept of respect for others is by framing it as sharing, cooperating, being polite, taking turns, being kind, and helping others.

Learner Outcomes

By the end of this session, students will be able to

- explain that sharing, cooperating, taking turns, being kind, and helping are ways to show respect for other people
- discuss the link between showing respect and having friends

Materials Needed

- Thinking of Others Dilemmas on page 122
- Paper for each student and markers or crayons

Preparation Needed

None

Class Meeting Outline

Opening Activity (10–15 minutes)

1. When we are being kind to others, sharing with each other, working together, and helping others, we are doing something called showing respect for them.
2. We're going to play a game called Thinking of Others. I am going to read some very short stories to you. After I read the story, we'll talk about what you think should happen.
3. Choose two or three situations from Thinking of Others Dilemmas. After each dilemma, brainstorm possible solutions as a large group.
4. Have students choose one of the dilemmas and write a story or draw a picture that shows what they think would be the best choice to make.

Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

1. Process the activity.
 - a. Was it easy or hard to decide what to do? For those who felt it was hard: What made it hard? For those who felt it was easy: What made it easy?
 - b. Do you think there was just one right choice or several good choices you could make?
 - c. What are some of the things you can do to show kindness and caring for your friends and family?
2. If time permits, choose another situation from Thinking of Others Dilemmas and repeat the activity.

Wrap-Up

1. Friends come in many shapes and sizes. You will have friends your whole life long if you treat them kindly and with respect. We should make sure to take time every day to show our friends that we care about them. Having friends makes every day better, especially when you know that friends will be thoughtful and caring about you, too!
2. Encourage additional questions and comments.

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Thinking of Others Dilemmas

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Instructions: Select two or three of the following dilemmas to read to the class. For each dilemma, discuss what students could do to show respect for others.

1. You break your friend's toy by accident. What could you do?
2. You find (an action figure or other toy) on the playground. You are pretty sure it belongs to another student in your class who lost one just like it. What could you do?
3. Everyone is trying to get into the building at the same time. A student next to you drops her lunchbox and everything falls out. What could you do?
4. You accidentally knock something off the teacher's desk when no one was looking and it breaks. What could you do?
5. Someone takes another student's hat and is playing keep-away with it. What should you do?
6. A friend lets you borrow his or her library book and it's due today, but you don't know where the book is. What could you do?
7. You put your lunchbox on a shelf in the coatroom. When you go to get it, you see that something leaked out all over someone else's jacket. What could you do?
8. You notice another student crying on the playground. What could you do?