

Character Ed Additional Activities

***These activities are provided to give you extra ideas if you cannot find a suitable activity in the monthly lesson plans. Most of these have been submitted by past character ed volunteers. They are arranged by month.

Respect (September)

Stomp out Respect (grades 3-5)

Following teaching all about respect, reading the book, etc. the project was to "Stomp out Disrespect". The students traced one of their shoes on white paper, wrote "Stomp out Disrespect" inside the foot and then decorated the footprint and sheet however they wanted. Then as a fun extra treat, I had downloaded Aretha Franklin's "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" from iTunes and we had a 3 minute dance party dancing to her song (I checked the lyrics beforehand and they were all ok. I also asked the teacher if this was ok and she was great w/ it.)

Types of respect (grades K-2)

Have items in a bag and pull them out and have the kids answer what type of respect they stand for...example an apple shows respect for your body or health, school bus shows respect for school, police car represents respect for authority, a toy stands for respect for other's property, etc.

In addition I used the board to write out a list of "who" you respect and "what you respect" and then we talk about the different ways to show respect to those people or things.

Sign Language (all grade levels)

This lesson teaches respect by talking about people's differences. I read a book on being deaf and taught a few basic signs- please, thank you, sorry and share.

Respect Skit (grades 3-5)

Divide the kids into 4 groups. Assign each group a different scenario to act out. For example one group did "expect at school, respect on the playground, respect at home, and respect on a sports team. Each group had about 10 minutes to come up with a skit and act it out. If they demonstrated disrespect they had to show how it was resolved.

Respect Rap (grades 3-5)

have students divide into groups and create a rap about respect. Have them perform the rap and vote on the winner.

Responsibility (October)

Game Show (grades 3-5)

Create a game show based on "Minute to Win It" game show. Don't know if you have ever seen it, but you have a minute to do a crazy task. The tasks I did represented responsibility tasks: Example: in under a minute they had to:

- 1) un-mix two decks of cards that had been mixed up, representing "cleaning up"
- 2) separate a bag of coins in piles and then tell me how much it was, representing "responsibility with money"
- 3) stack dixie cups into a pyramid and then unstack into one column again, representing "putting up dishes"
- 4) write a thank you note with 20+ words
- 5) separate 20 strips of paper with statements on them into two stacks of 10 responsible and 10 irresponsible traits.

They were in groups of 5 so each team had one team member participating in each of the tasks. They did great and it was really fun!

Writing RSVPs (grades 3-5)

Talked about what does RSVP mean? And the importance of writing a Thank You note following getting a gift. Gave each of the kids a card with the words "Thank you" stamped on the front and asked them to write a card to someone who have done something special for them. A few of the kids wrote a note to their bus driver, parents, friends, etc.. I even got a note :)

Chores (all grade levels)

Talked about chores - such as setting a table. Had a table set up with cups, silverware, placemat, etc... and had kids practice setting table.

Had kids make a Responsibility Chart. I provided the template and had them pick 3 things they could do around the house for 1 week. Then if they brought it back to the teacher they got a prize. I had given the teacher fun pencils to distribute for completed charts.

Books:

The Biggest Mistake

The Little Red Hen

Everyone has a job (grades K-2)

This lesson talks about how everyone must work together to get a job done. If one person doesn't do their part then it won't work. I brought in fake food that you would need to build a sandwich. I passed these items out to a few kids. We brought them up to the front and talked about how the farmer had to great the wheat to make the bread, the gardener had to grow the lettuce and tomatoes, etc. We also had a truck driver and grocery store person. This allows the students to see what all goes into getting their food to the grocery store so they can make a sandwich.

Honesty (November)

No new activities at this time

Caring (December)

Coupon Books

We made coupon books for holidays gifts. I made the template that said:
I care for you. I will help you_____. Love, _____
I gave each child 3-5 coupons then I punched holes in them and tied them with pretty string.

Books:

Those Shoes

A Mother for Choco

Justice and Fairness (January)

No new activities at this time

Citizenship (February)

Hats

We made patriotic hats and the kids LOVED them. I got lots of emails after this lesson from parents talking about the hats.

Coins

Talked about coins and who is on what coin. Then told a short story about the Presidents featured.

Books:

Citizenship

Being a Good Citizen

In America

Courage (March)

Draw it

Give each child a sheet of paper and asked them to draw courage. I got pictures that range from riding a bike to pushing a child in a wheelchair to jumping off a diving board.

Books:

Sheila Rae, the Brave

Bootsie Barker Bites

Perseverance (April)

Garden Lesson

Made butter by putting cream into a container with dice and had kids pass it around during the lesson and by the time it traveled to each person butter was made. Brought crackers to spread butter on.- Example of waiting a SHORT amount of time.

Planted sunflowers. Got dirt, cups with lids and markers and decorated Mother's Day flower pots. With love and care these will grow.- Example of waiting a LONGER amount of time.

Butterflies

Butterfly kit- explained how butterflies started as caterpillars then the stages until they morphed into butterflies. Provided the class with a kit with 6 caterpillars, a house, and several worksheets so they could chart, describe, estimate, etc.. the butterflies.

Books:

Winners Never Quit

Wanda's Rose Garden

Setting a Goal

Print out a half piece of paper with the words "help me accomplish my goal" at the top. Ask the student to write a long term goal or draw a picture of it. Then put the paper into one of those foam frames that have magnets on the back. You can get them at a craft store. Ask each student to hang this on the refrigerator at home so everyone in the family can help them attain their goal. Goals can be based on school, sports, etc but need to be somewhat long term.

Hope (May)

Cookies (grades K-2)

This requires a little bit of work but very cute. Get a big box and decorate it like an oven. Create a false bottom in it. Buy a batch of cookies and place them in the false bottom. Bring with you the ingredients to make cookies. Have the kids put the different items in a bowl and stir. Place the cookies in the fake oven ask the kids if they think they will cook? Ask them if they HOPE they will cook. Go ahead with the rest of your lesson while the cookies "bake". Talk a lot about hoping for something even if it doesn't seem possible. At the end bring out the real cookies from the bottom of the oven and share with the class. If this is too much one time I cut out a picture of cookies from a magazine and placed them

on a cookie sheet instead of mixing all the ingredients. We talked about how we hoped the fake paper cookies will turn into real ones.

Make Cards (all grade levels)

Make cards for people who may need a little hope...military, children's hospital, elderly home, etc.

Books:

Chicken Soup for a Kids Soul- Ben Story AWESOME STORY

Chicken Soup for Kids Soul- Clothes Story ANOTHER INCREDIBLE STORY

Have you Filled a Bucket Today

Song: There's Hope (song I heard on Oprah one day that has always just stuck in my head) Played song (over and over) during card making activity.