

K-5 character education Lesson: respect and teamwork



Overview:

This lesson will give students the ability to practice the skills necessary to show respect through a group project to build a structure. Students will practice teamwork, giving helpful feedback, and patience.

Character Education Objectives:

Students will:

- practice patience while being limited in their abilities during the challenge
- demonstrate effective teamwork by completing the structure together

- reflect on how feedback can change the outcome of the project

Materials:

- Materials to build a structure: pieces of wood, cardboard blocks, etc.
- Sample structure should be built ahead of time and piles of exact same building materials laid out for each group.

Lesson:

1. Divide students in groups of 2-4.
2. Facilitator shows group the structure. Allow them to look at it for at least one minute.
3. Give the instruction that each person will take a piece or pieces and must not touch any other pieces other than their own or the group will have to start over.
4. Each person in the group takes a piece or pieces of building material.
5. The group now duplicates the structure like the original.
6. Give the group a set amount of time. If they need more time, negotiate for what they are willing to give up (talking, one arm behind back, etc).
7. If groups are having trouble, take a time out and have them discuss how they are going to do it, then have them try again.

Discussion:

- Discuss the process they used either by plan or by default.
- Discuss what they heard while they were working, were people being encouraging or critical? How did that make them feel? Did they do anything to change the atmosphere?
- Discuss patience. Is it hard or easy for them?

- How does this activity reflect other things they have to do as a group or team?