

Teamwork Skills (Grades K-5)



Overview:

An important part of building your teamwork skills is to be reflective. When you have successes or failures, always make time to reflect on what you did well and what you could do better or differently as a team. Thinking about the skills you need to build as a team will help strengthen your team and give individuals opportunities to grow their own teamwork skills.

Character Education Objectives:

Students will:

- work as a team to complete a task.
- reflect on the performance of their team.
- practice adapting and modifying a plan for success as a team.

Materials:

- Rope or yarn in a large circle tied together (large enough for all students to be able to stand and hold a piece of it)
- Bandanas or fabric
- Large open space

Lesson:

Large Group

1. Place the rope/yarn in a circle on the ground and have students find a spot around it. Have students place their blindfolds on themselves and then pick up their piece of the yarn.
2. Students will now need to work together to turn this circle into a square. They can do anything to make the square except take off their blindfolds.
3. Give the students five minutes to complete the task. When five minutes is up, ask students to drop the rope/yarn and step back to see how close they were to making a square.
4. Ask students to reflect on the activity with a “Praise and Polish” conversation. Instruct students to think about this reflection through the lens of teamwork.
5. First, talk about things they did well as a team. Guide the conversation by asking questions about their communication and collaboration. Then, ask students to reflect on what they could better or differently next time. This conversation may need assistance, as they may start talking strategy. Keep them on track by encouraging them to make a plan around how they will work as a team.
6. Put the rope/yarn back in the circle on the ground. Have the students find a space and put their blindfolds on.
7. Students will have the same instructions as the first time, but this time encourage them to think about their praise and polish as they work together.
8. Give the students five minutes to complete the task.

When five minutes is up, ask students to drop the rope/yarn and step back to see how close they were to making a square.

Journal/Discussion

Encourage students to journal or discuss the following prompts:

1. Was there a difference between the first time and the second time you made the square? What were some of those differences?
 2. Think about the things your team chose as things they could do better or differently for the second time. Did those changes help you be successful?
 3. Praise and polish your team's second attempt at the square.
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Opportunities

There are opportunities even in the most difficult moments. Character education quotations.

How Not to Raise a Quitter

Teach your children to hang in there when the going gets tough, but know when to let them throw in the towel.

Problem Solving (Grades 6-12)



Character Education Objective:

- Students will discuss the role each individual play in solving his or her own problem.

Content Objective:

- Students will take responsibility to solve the problems they face.

Language Objective:

- Students will tackle a problem in their own life so they can #GetUnstuck

Purpose:

Taking responsibility for our own actions and problems in life is a skill we need to build. There will always be escalators breaking down in our lives, so we must take ownership over what we can control to keep moving up the stairs. This lesson highlights the importance of recognizing the things you can take responsibility for to #GetUnstuck and keep moving forward.

Lesson

Independent (2 min)

- What is a problem you are facing?

Watch the video as a class Stuck on an Escalator: <https://youtu.be/Kq65aAYCH0w> (3 min)

Small Group Discussion (8 min):

- What is the problem for these people in the video?
- What is the solution?
- Whose responsibility is it to solve their problem?
- What keeps us from taking responsibility and just getting off the escalator when we have a problem?

Whole group share out (4 min):

- When faced with a problem, what are some ways we can take responsibility and get off the escalator?

Reflection Journal (Independent task) (3 min):

- Go back to the problem you listed in your journal and write some responsible solutions or ideas that you can take to #GetUnstuck on the escalator or get it moving again.

Family Connection

- Tech Support
 - Anydo is an app that helps organize and prioritize

tasks when you are overwhelmed and stuck with too many things to do

- Sam App is an app to help you take ownership over your own health and manage the anxiety of dealing with the stress of the day to day.
- Pillar Time
 - Play a game of chess to determine strategic ways to stay out of checkmate
 - Write a 100-word poem about being thankful for problems
 - Use an object from your home and try to come up with as many ways to use it as possible
 - A spoon
 - Dig a hole (slowly)
 - A party trick for your nose
 - To carry an egg
 - Watch the video, Stuck on an Escalator as a family
 - <https://youtu.be/Kq65aAYCH0w>
 - Read What do you do with A Problem by Kobi Yamad
- Dinner Discussion
 - Describe an experience when you had to solve a problem in your life?
 - Discuss how responsibility plays a role in finding solutions to everyday problems.
 - Share why you feel it is important to take responsibility for your own actions and problems.

References

Radcliv, Bob. "Stuck On An Escalator – Release Your Trapped Emotions!". *Getanswers.Com*, 2013, <https://youtu.be/Kq65aAYCH0w>.

Common decision-making mistakes to avoid

We make a lot of decisions every day. They have a huge impact on our happiness and success. Yet most of us never question whether our decision-making process is flawed.

The simple



**"IT IS ALWAYS THE
SIMPLE THAT
PRODUCES THE
MARVELOUS."**

- AMELIA BARR

**@THERAYCENTER
#CHARACTERCOUNTS**

The astrologer

Take care of the little things and the big things will take care of themselves.

The wind and the sun

Moral: Gentle persuasion is stronger than force.

Think about



Capable

You are capable of amazing things. character education quotations.