

Real-World

Social Skills

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Teacher Instructions

Overview

Basic social skills encompass interpersonal skills used to get along with others effectively. Children and adults are constantly called upon to work, play, and simply be in contact with others. A lack of social skills can be one of the greatest stumbling blocks to success in school, work, and life.

Objectives

- *Students will learn social skills and why they are important.*
- *Students will build a classroom community.*
- *Students will learn rules for home, school, and community.*
- *Students will learn the importance of following directions.*
- *Students will determine and practice good manners.*

Suggested Activities

- Have students get to know each other, particularly at the beginning of the year, by playing "Getting to Know You Bingo." Create bingo cards with nine spaces. In each space, write one of the following topics (or create your own): favorite food, favorite movie, month of birthday, favorite toy, number of pets, color of hair, favorite color, number of letters in first name, and favorite song. Leave enough room in each space for a student to write or draw his or her answer. After students have filled in the information, they need to find someone in the class who has the same answer, then that person writes his name or initials in the square. Once a student gets BINGO, or three in a row, he or she sits down.
- Have each student create a mobile by writing his or her name on a piece of poster board and painting or decorating it. Then, have students draw or find pictures from magazines, greeting cards, or calendars that express their interests. Glue these onto smaller pieces of poster board, and, using yarn and a hole-punch, hang the pictures from the card with each student's name.
- The *Thank You Book for Kids: Hundreds of Creative, Cool, and Clever Ways to Say Thank You!* by Ali Lauren Spizman provides creative ideas, examples, and lists of words and phrases for writing thank-you notes. Share this book with the class.
- Get to know your students by creating an "interest inventory." Ask students to rate how they feel about different subjects, parts of the school day, and their interests outside of school. Students with adequate skills can read questions and write answers; struggling or non-readers can read or listen to the questions and draw a happy, neutral, or sad face.

Good Social Skills

Directions: Circle the pictures of people who are showing good social skills. Put an X on the pictures of people who are not showing good social skills.

