

Every Job Counts!

This is the fourth lesson of the Integrity unit. At this age, the concept of integrity can be difficult to understand. As such, the focus will be on learning about honesty and perseverance. This lesson focuses on integrity through helpfulness. Students are a valuable part of the classroom and their helpfulness allows the class to run smoothly, but it is important to emphasize that being a helper requires honesty, perseverance, and finishing what you start. To highlight their value and demonstrate just how helpful they are, this lesson will emphasize the vital importance of class jobs and how they can show integrity through their hard work in our classroom each day.

Integrity Sub-Concept(s)

Perseverance, Kindness

Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

Required Materials

- Blank Paper
- Basic art supplies

Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.



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See last page for details.

Lesson Objective

Students will be able to:

- Explain how each person's helpfulness contributes to the efficient classroom.
- Demonstrate integrity through the completion of their daily/weekly assigned job.

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

The final promise within your classroom relates back to our first concept this year- Respect. Promise #4 is, "I promise to show respect to my students at all times." This may seem obvious. Of course we respect our students! But if we are to be truly honest with ourselves, we can recognize that there will always be some students that are a struggle for us in one way or another. We may have opposite personalities, they may struggle to be in a group setting, there may be behavioral challenges, etc. Regardless of the reason behind it, you must work to ensure that same level of respect for them as for the rest of the class. Take some time with this week's promise. Examine exactly HOW you show respect to every student. Do your words and actions both inside and outside the classroom convey respect with regards to every student? When discussing difficult matters related to a student, are you able to do so in an honest, yet respectful and compassionate manner? Do you continue to advocate for your students even when the level of respect you are giving is not reciprocated by the student and/or family? Integrity starts with you. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Your kind words and actions make all the difference!

Tips for Diverse Learners

- Assign jobs based on abilities and conversation skills.
- Use picture cards to depict each job and have them available during this lesson. (The pictures cards can be used during the chant to help give ideas to students.)



Share

3-5 minutes

In the last lesson, we worked together through a variety of fun, but challenging math stations! How did you use perseverance to help you and your partner get through each station?

Invite student responses.

Were there stations where you felt you couldn't finish what you started?

Invite student responses.



Inspire

5-7 minutes

Explain that helpfulness is helping others without being asked. This ties into integrity because sometimes we know we need to help, even if we don't feel like it. This means we may need to persevere through tasks or jobs, even if we don't want to.

Have the students look around them and identify one way they could show helpfulness right now. (Examples might be: pick up a pencil, wipe off whiteboard, pick up coats, etc.) Use a steady beat (clap) to lead class in a chant to provide structure and reinforce/support their ideas. Have classmates repeat each idea when prompted to do so by the teacher.

Example: "We can help in class each day! Together we can find a way! Sally can help, oh yes, it's true. Tell the class what you can do." Sally: "I can pick up a pencil!" "Sally can help, oh yes, it's true. She can..." Class: "Pick up a pencil."

How do we show Helpfulness in our classroom?

7-10 minutes

Using your job chart, review each job listed and have students explain HOW that job shows helpfulness and integrity within the classroom.

- How is each job helpful to our class?
- How does each job show that we care for our classroom?
- What is something you can tell yourself that will help you persevere through a job even if you don't want to do it?



Empower

15-20 minutes

Students will answer the question, “What would happen if I didn’t do my job?” using pictures and dictation. These will be silly pictures showing a lack of integrity and helpfulness in our classroom. Give examples without using a specific job that someone has. (What would happen if I didn’t feed the fish, empty the garbage, etc.)

- Ask this question aloud to each student as you dismiss them to draw their picture. This will keep the idea fresh in their minds. Give helpful suggestions if they are stuck. (The trash can would overflow. You can draw that!)
- As students finish their pictures, have them dictate the answer to you. Write down exactly what they say below their picture. This can also serve as an oral language sample for the first quarter if necessary.
- When students are finished, have them convene at the carpet/circle time area.



Reflect

5-7 minutes

Have students share their pictures and explain what would happen if they didn’t help care for the classroom. After each child, review with the class the proper way to complete that job.

- Emphasize the value and importance of the jobs students do each day and the importance of every person in this class. When one person stops helping or is absent, our class feels it.
- Remind students that they need to be honest about if they are doing their jobs. We will know if, for example, a student says he/she picked up all of the crayons in the art station but really didn’t. The art station would be a big mess for the next person! It is important to finish a job you start or that you said you would do!



Extension Ideas

- Extend the activity by having students pair up and repeat this exercise by answering the question, “What would happen if _____ was absent?” Focus on how important that person is. Their presence is crucial to our classroom!



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Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL’s criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL’s highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>

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