

PRIMARY LESSON: BEING PEACEMAKERS

PURPOSE:

- To foster kindness, respect, and acceptance
- To teach good listening
- To help kids see that they are connected to the larger world

MATERIALS:

- Globe
- Sentence strips with the phrases: Peacemakers care about others. Peacemakers are kind. Peacemakers accept others. NOTE: If you teach kindergarten or pre-school, draw or paste a related picture on each sentence strip.

PROCEDURE:

- Gather your students in a circle.
- Ask if they can remember a time someone did something kind for them. Ask how it made them feel. Give your own examples.
- In the center of the circle, place the sentence strips face down.
- Ask for volunteers to turn the phrases over one at a time. Ask kids to give a real-life examples of each.
- Ask what it means to accept others. Discuss. Guide them to understand that one way to be kind is accepting others and including them when we play.
- Ask your kids to think of other ways they can be kind and accepting toward others.
- Ask children to form pairs on the floor, sitting “knee to knee” (Have children sit cross-legged, close enough to be in each others’ visual field, knees an inch or two from their partners’). Demonstrate this with a child, modeling how to face each other and focus on the other person. Strongly stress that when we form pairs, we need to make sure that no one is left out. If there’s an uneven number of children, you can have one group of 3.
- Compliment kids for not leaving anyone out.
- Now have each child tell his/her partner one thing he/she will do to be kinder. Give them a few minutes to share, then have students go back into a large circle.
- Hold up the globe and remind the children that this globe is like the circle they are sitting in. We are all connected. Say, “We can make our class and our world more peaceful by being kind to others.”
- Pass the globe from hand to hand and have each child state what he or she plans to do to be kind to others.
- Compliment your students for their good ideas and good listening.