

Personal/Social Development



Standard: Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Competency: 7.4 Demonstrate effective skills for interacting with peers and adults.

Lesson Topic: Cooperation

Grade Level: 4-5

Length: 1 class period

Materials:

“Dog Mystery Clues” worksheet.

Evaluation:

Students will demonstrate effective skills for interacting with others.

Procedure:

1. Discuss with the students: “What things are important in order for a group to work together?” (Cooperation, sharing, acceptance, no put-downs, encouragement, etc.) Explain that “Today we are going to look at cooperation.”
2. Ask the students:
 - a) “What does cooperation mean?”
 - b) “Who must cooperate to make the following situations happen?”
3. Print each of the following situations on a card. Ask students to draw a card and read it aloud.
 - a) A construction worker building a house.
 - b) An athlete running a race.
 - c) A salesman selling a product.
 - d) A quarterback on a football team.Discuss how each one requires the skills of other people, even if the first does not seem so. (For example, an athlete needs a coach; a salesperson needs to be trained.)
4. Have the students complete the following activity.
DOG MYSTERY (or Who Locked the Dog in the Closet?) (See attached clues.) Explain to the students that they are going to work in groups to solve a mystery. Slips will have clues on them and if they put all the facts together, they will be able to solve it. They must find the person who did it, the reason why, when it happened, and the weapon used.

Divide the class into 2 groups. Tell the students:

- a) They may organize themselves in any way they want within their groups.
 - b) They may **not** pass clues from their group to another.
 - c) All sharing of clues within a group must be done verbally to the whole group.
5. Remind the groups that each member has an important clue and the group won't be able to solve the mystery without the cooperation of everyone. The groups will need to encourage the quieter students to talk, and the talkative students to listen. (The teacher should stay out of the groups' process as much as possible.) Each group will be allowed one guess when the time is up.
6. When the students are ready and sitting in their groups, distribute one clue to each student. Some may receive more than one. There are 23 clues. Let students solve the mystery.

ANSWER KEY

Who did it: The Teacher

Why: He/She wanted to teach the students responsibility. They had not been watching the dog.

What time: 12:30 PM

Weapon: The spray water bottle.

Follow-up questions:

- a) "What problems did you have in getting started?"
- b) "How did you remember all the clues?"
- c) "Was there a leader or did everyone help out equally?"
- d) "How did this activity make you feel?"
- e) "Do you feel you accomplished something as a group?"

DOG MYSTERY CLUES

(Cut apart into strips.)

1. When Teddy, the puppy was found, he was drenched with water and covered with mud. He was found in the teacher's storage closet.
2. David was asked by his neighbor to care for Teddy for three days.
3. The teacher thinks that the class has no sense of responsibility.
4. Cindy and David liked each other; in fact, they were attending Friday's game together.
5. The door handle of the closet had Cindy's fingerprints on it.
6. Teddy had been locked up for one hour.
7. The teacher had lectured the class on their lack of responsibility.
8. Teddy jumped on Cindy's new dress and got mud on it.
9. The janitor reported to the principal that he saw Teddy at 12:15.
10. David hated dogs and especially Teddy because he jumped on Cindy's new dress.
11. Cindy rearranged the teacher's storage closet so that it was free of clutter.
12. David last saw Teddy at 12:10.
13. The janitor hated Teddy because of the muddy paw prints in the hallway.
14. Cindy was mad at David because Teddy dug up her flowers.
15. Mrs. Jones was upset with Teddy because he dug up her flowers.
16. When the janitor last saw Teddy, the dog was muddy but not wet.
17. Teddy was afraid of water.
18. Teddy was found at 1:30.
19. Teddy tried to be friendly with David; however, David only wanted to punish him somehow.
20. The teacher was seen walking down the hallway with a spray water bottle at 12:30.
21. During the lunch hour, the kids forgot to watch Teddy.

22. The teacher saw Teddy wandering around loose in the schoolyard.
23. Teddy would come to anyone who called him.