

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

CASEL COMPETENCY: RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

SOCIAL SKILL: JOINING IN AND INVITING OTHERS TO JOIN IN

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BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: Strictly No Elephants

Author: Lisa Mantchev

Illustrator: Taeun Yoo

Publisher and date of publication: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers

ISBN: 978-1-4814-1647-4

Number of pages: 30

Reading level or interest level:K-2

BOOK SYNOPSIS

The narrator explains that the hard part of having a tiny elephant as a pet is that you never fit in because no one else has an elephant. Every day he does nice things for his elephant, like carry him over cracks and the elephant does nice things like carry the umbrella for him. When they get to pet club there is a sign that says, "Strictly no elephants." The elephant then leads him back and even steps over the cracks because friends brave scary things for each other. They see a girl who asks if they went to the pet club meeting and the boy explains that they don't allow elephants. The girl shares that they didn't allow her pet, a skunk, either. The boy says they don't know any better. They decide to make their own club. The narrator makes a sign that says "All are welcome." The boy and the elephant welcome all kinds of pets with their owners.

This book could be used to address relationship skills, such as what to do when you are rejected from peers and how you can be a leader and invite others to join you. Students who have experienced some rejection or students who are good leaders might become empowered by reading this book.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

The goal of this lesson is for students to understand that when they are rejected, they can make friends by finding others who need a friend. Students will understand how to be a good friend and leader.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

K-2 materials:

- Paint and paintbrush for each person
- A piece of construction paper for each person

3-6 materials:

- A piece of lined paper for each person
- A pencil or pen for each person

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Include: to be a part of something

Reciprocate: to give or take mutually

Rejection: to cast off or deny

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Share a time where you were not included with other people. What happened? How did you feel? What did you do about it?

Show the students the front of the book and read the title. Ask the students what they think might happen with the elephant? Will the boy go in or stay with the elephant? Explain that this is a book about how to be a good friend.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Show the students the picture of the elephant refusing to walk across the crack. Ask them what his friend (the boy) does about it? Why does he carry him? Explain that sometimes we don't physically carry our friends but we help them when they are having a hard time. Ask them what they can do for their friends who are having a hard time.

How does the little boy feel when his elephant is not allowed in? Why does the elephant walk himself over the cracks this time?

Show the picture of the girl and boy talking. When the little boy and girl talk, the boy explains that the people who put up the sign don't know any better? What does he mean? How do you know he and the girl know better? How can you show that you know better when others are left out?

Show the last page of the book. Ask the students if the boy and girl and their pets have found a place to belong? How did that happen? If you are rejected by others, how can you find a place to belong?

POST READING ACTIVITY

K-2: Ask students to paint a picture of a club they would want to be in. The picture should show who is in the club, what the club is for, and what they do at the club.

When students have completed the painting, ask them to stand in a circle with their paintings. Have students share what their club is for. If students would be interested in being part of that club, have them step inside the circle. Point out that even when there are just one or two people who are interested, that is enough people to start a club.

3-6: Think of something you have been rejected for. Now imagine a club you could make for people who are rejected for that. What would the club be called? Who could join? What would be the rules? What would you do for fun? How would this help you make friends and how would it help others make friends? Either have the student do this as a writing assignment, or if you are working one-on-one discuss it out loud.

CLOSURE

When we experience rejection, we can find other people to who need friends. This helps them get friends and helps you get friends. An important part of friendship is being loyal, so it is important to stand by our friends when others reject them.



“Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.”

- Mother Teresa