

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

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SOCIAL SKILL: WORKING TOGETHER
CASEL COMPETENCY: RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

BOOK INFORMATION:

Book Title: *Swimmy*

Author: Leo Lionni

Publisher: Dragonfly Books

Year: 1963

ISBN Number: 9780394826202

Number of Pages: 32 pages

Reading Level: Kindergarten - 3rd grade

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Deep in the sea there lives a happy school of little fish. Their watery world is full of wonders, but there is also danger, and the little fish are afraid to come out of hiding until Swimmy comes along. Swimmy shows his friends how—with ingenuity and team work—they can overcome any danger.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Teach children about the importance of teamwork and collaboration. Show them how they can work together as a group and cooperate with one another. It's important to do your job when your team is counting on you.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCED PREPARATION

Pin-The-Tale-On-The-Donkey

Materials: blindfolds; magnet or tape; either a drawing on the whiteboard or poster of a donkey and a tail/nose to pin on

Preparation: None needed.

Line-Up

No materials or preparation needed.

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

School of fish - a group of little fish who travel together

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Show the front cover of the book. Discuss how sometimes, it's hard to do something on your own and sometimes you need the help of others. If you work together it can be easier to get the job done. When you work with others it is important to listen to everyone's ideas and make everyone feel included. Ask if they've ever had an experience working on a team or in a group.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions:

- Why do you think the little fish travel together (in schools)?
- How does working together help the little fish?
- What do you think would happen if one little red fish didn't do its job? If it didn't help make the big fish?
- Why is it important for each member of the group to do their job?
- How did swimmy help lead the school of fish?
- How did Swimmy use his special talent (speed) to help others?
- How can we use our own talents to help the group?

POST READING ACTIVITY

Pin-The-Tail-On-The-Donkey

Either draw a picture or tape a poster to the whiteboard or chalkboard of a donkey and have the children attach a nose or tail using a magnet or tape. Blindfold one or more children, spin them, and have each student attempt to pin the tail. Meanwhile, instruct the rest of the class to help them by giving them advice using the cold and hot system. Show how pinning the tail is easier with help than by oneself.

Line-Up

Participants line up in a straight line side-by-side. Ask them now to get in order of their birthdays (month and day, year isn't necessary). The challenge is they cannot talk at all. You'll find they resort to sign language, nudges, someone might try to start leading. You can also adapt this so a couple of group members are blindfolded to make it more difficult. Variations to this game include: names, shoe sizes, height etc.

CLOSURE

Hang the poster (provided) in the room.

A photograph of a road stretching into the distance under a dramatic, cloudy sunset sky. A large, semi-transparent circular overlay is centered over the road, containing the text. The overall color palette is dominated by warm, reddish-orange tones from the sunset.

**IF YOU WANT TO GO
FAST, GO ALONE.
IF YOU WANT TO GO
FAR, GO TOGETHER.**

AFRICAN PROVERB