

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

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SOCIAL SKILL: BEING OPTIMISTIC
CASEL COMPETENCY: SELF-AWARENESS

BOOK INFORMATION

Book Title: *Galimoto*
Author: Karen Lynn Williams
Publisher: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books
Year: 1990
ISBN Number: 0-688-08789-2
Number of Pages: 32
Reading Level: Pre-K – 3rd grade

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Kondi is ready to make a galimoto (a wire toy, such as a car or truck, made of recycling bits and pieces of discarded wire), but many of his family and friends don't think he can. Despite the time and work involved to find the wire he needs, he sets a goal to make the galimoto, sticks to his goal, and he remains hopeful. Through his own effort and through the help of those who believe in him, he succeeds in making a fine galimoto to play with.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Help children understand the importance of hope when they are working towards a goal. Hope is a strong force for good in our lives, even when we may not fully recognize it. Hope gives us extra energy to actively push toward a goal. It helps us to avoid giving up and quitting.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCED PREPARATION

Making a galimoto (all ages)

Materials: pipe cleaners and scissors

Preparation: Have two or three pipe cleaners per student ready and scissors to share for the optional activity.

Making a paper snake (for grades 3-6)

Materials: One piece of white typing paper and scissors. Also, print off the snake pattern included in this lesson plan, making one for each student, scissors for each student, and crayons. Bring tape to help correct accidental mistakes made in cutting out the snakes.

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Galimoto: read the definition at the front of the book. This is a self-made toy that is made from scraps of wire and odds and ends that one finds. Often pieces are thrown out and children recycle scraps to make toys or things that resemble toys.

Hope: a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen; grounds for believing that something good may happen; believing in a person or power that may help or save someone.

Patience: the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.

Optimistic: hopeful and confident about the future.

Proactive: creating or controlling a situation by causing something to happen rather than responding to a situation after it happens.

Mill: a building equipped with machinery for grinding grain into flour.

Maize: British or English term for corn.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Show the cover of the book and ask the children to think of a time when they wanted something, but it was difficult to achieve. Explain to them that hope is a powerful motivator that helps us accomplish our goals. Show the front cover of the book and ask the children to pay attention to the ways in which the boy in the story stays hopeful and motivated while working towards his goal, despite the difficulties and challenges he faces.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions:

- Why did no one think Kondi could build his galimoto? What was Kondi's attitude?
- Why do you think Kondi was so hopeful and positive?
- What about Kondi's attitude helped him get the help he needed from the people he met?
- What if Kondi had a different attitude? What if he had no hope? Would he have made a galimoto? Would he have even started to make a galimoto?
- How do you think Kondi felt when he finished making his galimoto?
- What can we learn from Kondi? What can we do to be like him?

POST READING ACTIVITY (CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY)

Making a galimoto (all ages)

Using pipe cleaners, build your own small galimoto. Encourage students to make the galimoto into something that they hope for or something they want. For example, they may want a car when they are older. They could make a pipe cleaner model of the car they want to one day own. They may use the pipe cleaners to make something that represents a special vacation or event. Encourage the students to keep their galimoto as a symbol of the goal they are working towards.

Making a paper snake (grades 3-6)

First show the children a plain piece of typing paper. Ask them if they think you could stretch the paper to be as long as your outstretched arms. Then show them how you cut the paper (using one of the templates) and how the paper is still a piece of paper, but now it is longer and has a different shape. To each student, pass out crayons and a paper with the snake pattern, which is included in this lesson plan. Ask the students to color their "snake." Then pass out scissors and ask the students to start at the one large dot with the arrow, cutting along the black line and cut all the way to the large center dot, trying to keep the snake in one long piece. Use tape to fix students' mistakes if they accidentally cut where they should not. Tell the students that there is much more potential in one piece of paper than it would first appear.

CLOSURE

Hang the poster (provided) in the room.

"Hope can be a powerful force. Maybe there's no actual magic in it, but when you know what you hope for most and hold it like a light within you, you can make things happen, almost like magic." — Laini Taylor

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