

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

SOCIAL SKILL: RESISTING PEER PRESSURE
CASEL COMPETENCY: RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

BOOK INFORMATION

Book Title: *Leo the Late Bloomer*
Author: Robert Kraus
Publisher: Windmill Books Inc.
Year: 1971
ISBN Number: 0-87807-042-7
Number of Pages: 28 pages
Reading Level: Pre-K - 3rd grade

BOOK SYNOPSIS

The beginning of the book shows pictures of Leo the Tiger and his animal peers. The other animals are successfully reading, writing, drawing, and eating without making a mess. In contrast, Leo sits in frustration, unable to do activities like the others. Leo's father expresses concern to Leo's mother. The parents wait and watch. Still, nothing happens and Leo hasn't "bloomed." Then the parents stop watching so closely. By the end of the story Leo "blooms" and does all the things his parents had patiently waited for.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Even though everyone develops and progresses at their own rate, with encouragement and love everyone eventually reaches their potential. It is important for children to know that just because a person is not exactly the same as their peers, it doesn't mean that the person will never learn and "bloom." Students must be respected and allowed to progress at their own speed.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCED PREPARATION

Materials: chalk or dry erase markers; 10 plastic disposable cups--5 cups with holes punched in the bottle to allow for drainage and five cups to set these cups inside of to catch excess water drainage; potting soil; 5 different types of seeds that take different amounts of time to sprout

Preparation: Prepare the planting materials on a table/desk at the front of the room. Have a pitcher of water to sprinkle the cups of soil once the seeds are planted.

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Bloom - when a plant produces a flower that opens

Patience - to wait without feeling rushed or worried

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Ask students if they know someone (a friend or older sibling) who can do something (a skill) which is difficult to do. How does it feel when someone else can do something difficult that you cannot do? Is it OK for you to **not** be able to do something that others can do?

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions:

- How did Leo feel at the beginning of the book?
- Have you ever felt this way?
- What does it mean when the story says, Leo “bloomed?”
- Were Leo’s father and mother patient?
- What happened at the end of the book?

Encourage students do talk about why it’s OK for everyone to do things and learn things within various time frames. Explain that we do not all learn the same things at the same speed.

POST READING ACTIVITY

Flower Seeds Activity

Talk about what it means to be patient for something to bloom. Put potting soil in 5 different plastic cups. Then, plant 5 different seeds—one or two of the same seeds in each separate cup. Label each cup with a picture of the kind of plant/flower it will eventually become. Then plant each seed and place it in an area in the room where students can monitor the progress of the growth. Ask students if they think all the plants will sprout and bloom on the same day. Talk about these predictions, and then follow up as each plant begins to sprout in the cup. (The similarities and differences can be compared each day as a reminder of this lesson.) Talk about how each one of us “blooms” at different times and we need to be accepting of one another. We also need to be patient with ourselves as we grow up and learn to do new things. We should not pressure each other or ourselves and we need to be patient in how we “bloom” at different rates.

CLOSURE

Talk about how each student in your class is different and that no one is exactly the same as someone else. Stay positive about these differences and let students know they should be patient and accepting of others and of themselves because they too will “bloom” in their own time. Hang the poster provided in the classroom.



Be Patient!
Everyone
BLOOMS!

