

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

CASEL COMPETENCY: RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

SOCIAL SKILL: RELATIONSHIP BUILDING- FRIENDSHIP

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BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: My New Friend is So Fun

Author: Mo Willems

Publisher and date of publication: Hyperion Books for Children

ISBN: 978-142317958-0

Number of pages: 57

Reading level or interest level: K-2

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Gerald is worried because Piggy has made friends with a new animal, Brian. Brian's best friend, Snake, becomes worried too when Gerald says that maybe they are having more fun with each other than with them. They decide to tell Piggy and Brian to stop having fun. They see that Piggy and Brian are having fun and Piggy tells them that they have been playing best friend games. Gerald and Snake worry that it is worse than they thought. Piggy and Brian then show them the pictures they drew of their best friend. Piggy drew one of Gerald and Brian drew one of Snake. Piggy asks what Gerald had to tell them and Gerald tells Piggy to have fun with his new friend.

This book could be used to help students understand that it is good to make new friends and it is good when their friends make new friends.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

The goal of this lesson is for students to understand the importance of making new friends and being OK with their friends making new friends. Students should understand that having more than one friend makes life interesting.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

Advance preparation:

- For K-2:
- For 3-6: If you want certain students to be in the same group or be apart, have groups already made.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Show the students the cover of the book. Read the title out loud. Explain that Piggy and Gerald are best friends. Ask them how they think Piggy is feeling and why. Ask what Gerald might be feeling and why?

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask students how Gerald first felt when he realized that Piggy was having fun. What changed? Why do you think Gerald was upset that Piggy might have more fun with Brian than with him?

Once Gerald realized that he was still Piggy's best friend, he felt OK. Why do you think he decided to not tell Piggy to stop having fun? If you saw that your friend was having fun with someone else, you may feel a little scared. What could you do to help them want to be your friend still?

At the end Gerald and Snake leave their friends. What do you think Gerald and Snake will do next? Do you think they will become best friends or keep being best friends with the other two?

POST READING ACTIVITY

K-2: Play "Make New Friends" (search Google to find many videos) for the students. Play it a few times and ask students to jump in to sing it. After a few plays, have students get in a circle and sing it.

Lyrics:

Make new friends,
but keep the old.
One is silver,
the other is gold.
A circle is round,
it has no end.
That's how long,
I will be your friend.

Ask students what it means by "one is silver, the other is gold"? Ask the students how long the song says we want to be each other's friend? Ask how this circle might change as a person makes new friends? What could be nice about having a bigger circle of friends or multiple circles of friends?

3-6: Put students in groups of 3. Ask them to choose two people who will play best friends and one person who plays a new friend to one of the best friends. Have them act out the following scenario. Make sure to monitor the classroom to make sure students understand the task and are acting the scenario out appropriately.

Scenario: You and your best friend are playing at recess and your best friend says they want to play with someone else. Your best friend and their new friend start playing together. What do you do?

After students practice this, choose one or two groups who demonstrate different ways of handling this (asking if they can play too, finding someone else to play, playing alone this time, etc.). Ask the students what may be interesting if you choose to play as a larger group, if you choose to find someone else to play with, or if you choose to play by yourself. Ask why your friend might enjoy playing with you more if you give them the space to play with someone new?

CLOSURE

Making new friends and your friends making new friends is a part of life. It can be fun and interesting. I challenge you to try making a new friend and realize that even when your best friend plays with others, they are still best friends with you.



“Make new friends
Keep the Old
One is silver
And the other is gold”
- Girl Scout Song