

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

SOCIAL SKILL: HELPING OTHERS & VOLUNTEERING
CASEL COMPETENCY: SOCIAL AWARENESS

BOOK INFORMATION

Book Title: *The Giving Tree*
Author: Shel Silverstein
Publisher: Harper Collins
Year: 1964, reprinted 1992
ISBN Number: 978-0-06-025665-4
Number of Pages: 52 pages
Reading Level: Pre-K - 6th grade

BOOK SYNOPSIS

This is a story about a boy and a tree. When the boy was young the tree had much to offer--apples to eat and branches to climb. The boy loved the tree and the tree loved the boy. As the boy grew older he needed more. He needed all the branches to make a home. Much later he needed the tall trunk of the tree to make a boat. When the little boy grew old the tree was just a stump---with nothing to give. However, the boy was an old man and needed to sit and rest. The tree stump was just what he needed. The tree was happy.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Help children understand how serving others brings the giver joy. We feel good when we can do something to help another person.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCED PREPARATION

Materials: Paper, markers, and other supplies based on selected activity.

Preparation: Make word strips for the charades or Pictionary game (whichever you choose).

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Generous - showing kindness, give in abundance or more than necessary

Sacrifice - thinking about others, you give up something for their good, even when it might be hard to give

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Show the front cover of the book, ask if anyone likes to eat apples from a tree. Ask if anyone has ever climbed in a tree. Ask (raise of hands) if someone has a favorite tree in their yard.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions:

- When the boy was little, what did he want from the tree?
- What did the boy want from the tree when he was a grown man and had a family?
- What did the boy want from the tree when he was a lot older?
- The last time the boy wanted something from the tree, what did the boy (now an old man) want?
- What did the boy give the tree?

The tree continues to give to the boy from the time the boy is very young to the time the tree is very old. Although the tree expects nothing in return, the tree is very happy to give to the boy because the tree loves the boy.

POST READING ACTIVITY

Discuss how some service is not expensive or time consuming. Play Pictionary or charades (your choice). If playing Pictionary, students can draw on the chalkboard. Explain that some things will be hard to draw----so allow for questions to help students guess ---as needed.

Before the activity, write the following words on word strips (pieces of typing paper cut into 1" by 7" strips). Place the word strips in a container (bowl or paper bag). Ask one student at a time to come to the front of the room and select a word strip. If the activity requires more than one person, select others to come and join in the role play. If the charade or the picture are too hard to guess, allow students (one at a time) to ask questions. Make sure students raise their hands. Call on one person at a time to keep order.

- Smile
- Hug
- Carrying something for an older person
- Opening the door for someone
- Reading to a younger person (like a reading buddy)
- Do something to help the teacher
- Helping someone down the stairs
- Raising your hand and letting the teacher know you will help
- Helping clean up the papers and mess in the school
- Sharpening the teacher's pencil
- Serving as a greeter in the morning
- Helping the principal carry things into the office
- Helping pick up garbage outside the school building
- Raising your hand when the teacher asks for help
- Welcoming a new student to play at your house
- The bathroom has paper towels all over the floor--so you pick up the paper towels and throw these into the trash.
- Help carry books for the librarian.
- Help clean the school windows.

CLOSURE

Select one of the three posters provided at the end of this lesson plan. Hang the poster in the classroom and refer to the poster during the week to reinforce the social skill. Review the social skill steps below with the class.

Steps for Volunteering

1. Watch for chances to help.
2. Look at the person.
3. Use a pleasant voice.
4. Ask the person if you can help.
5. Ask or say what you could do.

**A friendly smile is
FREE
Pass it on!**



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