

# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

## SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

SOCIAL SKILL: WORKING TOGETHER  
CASEL COMPETENCY: RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

### BOOK INFORMATION

Book Title: *The Lion and the Mouse: A Fable by Aesop*

Author: Retold by Bernadette Watts

Publisher: North-South Books

Year: 2007

ISBN Number: 0735821291

Number of Pages: 32 pages

Reading Level: Pre-K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade

### BOOK SYNOPSIS

A picture-book retelling Aesop's fable with a twist. In this version, the main characters first met when the lion was a young cub. Years pass and the "king of the beasts" is trapped by a hunter's net and ultimately freed by the same mouse.

### LESSON OBJECTIVE

Working together benefits everyone, even the strongest and most independent people.

### LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCED PREPARATION

#### 4-Way Tug of War

Materials: ropes

Preparation: None needed.

#### Building Activity

Materials: uncooked spaghetti and marshmallows

Preparation: Prepare small sandwich bags of spaghetti (uncooked) and marshmallows (one small plastic bag of either marshmallows or spaghetti for each student).

#### Video Clips

Materials: None needed.

Preparation: Review the video clips and pick one or two to use with your students.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jop2l5u2F3U&index=2&list=RDDvVEeoKrm48>

### KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

**Scamper** - to run with quick light steps, especially when fearful or excited

**Snarl** - an aggressive growl with bared teeth, usually a warning to other animals to stay away

**Struggle** - to make forceful or violent efforts to get free of restraint or constriction

**Entangle** - to become twisted together with or caught in, making it difficult to escape

## PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Show the book's cover to the students. Ask for their opinion: "Is there any way a mouse could help a lion?" Explain that this book is a **fable**, a type of story where animals are given human qualities in order to teach a valuable lesson or **moral**. Ask them to listen carefully and figure out what the story is trying to teach. What is the moral of this story?

## READ THE BOOK

## POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions:

- What did this story teach? What is the fable's moral?
- Why did the author of this story choose a mouse to save a lion?
- Even though students are younger, how can a child help their parents, teachers, and other adults? [Offer examples---what children can do-- such as crawling under the bed to find something; possibly hearing what is said when a grandparent might have difficulty hearing; picking up things off of the floor when an older person might find this difficult; running quickly to get something for a parent who is busy; etc.]
- What does this story teach us about working together?

Explain that when we work together as a team, we can offer our talents and abilities and we can also benefit from our teammates' talents and abilities. We can help each other. Working together, teams can accomplish things individuals cannot. Differences in size, ability, strength, age, and other things don't exclude anyone from being a valuable member of a team. We each have something to contribute.

## POST READING ACTIVITY: CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

### Building Activity

Give half of the students spaghetti (uncooked) and the other half of students marshmallows. With each person working independently, ask the students to build a house, a space ship, or a work of art with their materials. Initially, have the students work independently (each student has only spaghetti or only marshmallows). After a few minutes, encourage groups to combine resources and work together in small groups of 3 or 4 students. See what the groups are able to create when students have **both** marshmallows and spaghetti to build their creations.

### 4-Way Tug of War

Set-up a multi-directional game by tying ropes in such a way that three or four teams tug at once. Some teams might choose to work together to eliminate the other groups before going head-to-head.

This Internet site has more details about this type of activity:

<http://www.wilderdom.com/games/descriptions/MultiWayTugOfWar.html>

## Video Clips

This YouTube link has a mix of short videos on teamwork (animated Disney films and other videos students enjoy). In advance, review these and pick one or two your group would enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jop2l5u2F3U&index=2&list=RDDvVEoKrm48>

Afterward watching a short video clip, play the game, "Stand if you are talented in this way..." Ask classmates to stand if the description matches their talents or strengths (then sit down). Ask for classmates to stand and be recognized: "Everyone stand who is..."

Describe talents and characteristics that help build a strong team. Examples include artistic; strong; a good listener; a true friend; honest; kind; thoughtful; tall; short; musical—a good singer; patient; sticks up for someone who is being bullied; brave; hard working; invites others to join in the fun; trustworthy; has a green thumb—a good gardener; fun; good sense of humor; etc. Afterwards ask if students learned something new about someone in the classroom. Talk about when these skills or characteristics might come in handy

## CLOSURE

Remind students about the importance of working together in teams and ask them to find ways to be a good team player at home and at school. Hang the poster provided in the classroom and review the social skill steps.

### Steps for Working Together

1. Look and listen.
2. Show your interest.
3. Use kind words.
4. No arguing, whining, or pouting.
5. Do your part.



**work together**