

Lesson #5: The Values Behind the Circle

Lesson Developer: Bev Dekker

Time/Grade: 1 hour lesson/ Grades 2-6

Key Concept: Teach students about the restorative justice approach with a focus on conferencing for dealing with discipline issues.

Objectives: The students will learn that the character traits of respect, responsibility, trust, and inclusiveness are important values associated with the Medicine Wheel. They will develop an understanding of responsible behaviour and trustworthiness and be able to identify what responsibility or trustworthiness would look like in various situations.

Materials:

- ✚ Story: Nutik, the Wolf Pup by Jean Craighead George
- ✚ Legend: Raccoon Learns a Lesson – retold by Elders Margaret Labillois and Luke Simon and found at the following website:
http://www.lib.unb.ca/Texts/QWERTY/Qweb/qwerte/mic_mal/medicine.htm
- ✚ Power of the Circle Paragraph
- ✚ Demonstrating Responsibility or Trustworthiness (cut the sentences into strips)
- ✚ Poster: How to Be a Responsible Person
- ✚ Responsibility Chant

Introduction: Review concepts learned from the previous lesson about the Medicine Wheel. Put the information about the Power of the Circle on an overhead or smart board. The teacher or students read it aloud as the rest of the class follows. Highlight the underlined words and bring them to the students' attention. Remind the class that they have learned about respect in a previous lesson and tell them that this lesson will focus on responsibility, trust, and inclusiveness, all important values associated with the Wheel.

Concept Development/Learning Activities:

1. Write the words Responsible and Trust on the board and discuss their meanings. Underneath them write the words **Yes** and **No**.
2. Read the story "Nutik, the Wolf Pup" (or another appropriate children's picture book) aloud. Following the story ask questions of the students such as:
 - Who acted in a responsible way in the story?
 - In what ways did (name of character) act responsibly?
 - Who showed trust in someone else in the story?
 - Who acted in a trustworthy manner in the story?
3. Cut each sentence on the Sentence Strip handout apart. Hand out a sentence strip to each student. Have each student stand up one at a time and read their sentence aloud. They then come up to the board and put it under **Yes** if it demonstrates either responsibility or trustworthiness, or under **No** if it doesn't. Discuss as a class and make any necessary changes.
4. Read the poster "How To Be A Responsible Person" aloud and leave it on display in the classroom.

5. Divide the class into two groups to practice the Responsibility Chant. Each group stands when it is their turn to speak and sits when it isn't. Go through the chant at least twice, making sure to reverse the groups.

Closure/Summary:

Read the legend "Raccoon Learns a Lesson" aloud or listen as it is read from the website.
Play the Cooperative Hoops activity.

Assessment:

The sentence strips handout could be used again. Give each student a copy and have them write **Yes** behind the sentence if it demonstrates responsibility or trustworthiness and **No** if it does not. Have each student choose one of behaviours that they answered **No** for and on the back of the paper, explain how this behaviour could be changed to turn it into a **Yes**.

Curriculum Outcomes Addressed:

Grade 2-6 Health: Outcomes 1 and 2

Wellness Choices: Students will make responsible and informed choices to maintain health and to promote safety for self and others.

Relationship Choices: Students will develop effective interpersonal skills that demonstrate respect in order to establish and maintain healthy interactions.