

Responsibility Charades

This lesson focuses on our responsible actions through a charades game.

Kindness Concept(s)

Responsibility, Kindness

Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

Required Materials

- Butcher Paper
- Markers

Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.



**DESIGNATED BY CASEL
AS A RECOMMENDED PROGRAM
FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.**
See last page for details.

Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Identify ways children can be responsible during difficult situations
- Explore ways to be responsible using charades

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

It is no coincidence that the first half of the word responsibility is the word response. We are responsible for how we respond to others. Although it can be a struggle, responding in kindness is a true gift that we can offer to those around us. The beauty of this response is that it is completely free for both you and the recipient! A change in attitude, an adjustment in your perspective, a deep breath before reacting: all of these actions allow you to respond in kindness regardless of the situation at hand. That said, some people and situations may require you to dig a bit deeper to conjure up the kindness needed to keep the tone upbeat. Don't despair! You can lead with kindness in every situation. The key is to plan ahead. This week, brainstorm tough situations that frequently lead you to struggle with a kind response. How can you add a kind word in these scenarios? Here are a few examples to get your juices flowing:

- If someone is prone to complaining, build them up with kindness and suggest they take a stab at creating something to fix/adjust/replace the area of concern.
- If a team meeting frequently ends with both sides becoming confrontational, plan ahead to write down the contributing thoughts of every member and then highlight similarities within the group to increase buy-in.

Now it's your turn. How can you respond with kindness?

Tips for Diverse Learners

- Draw simple pictures for scenario cards to help them understand each responsible scenario.
- Have advanced students create scenarios on their own to act out with a partner.
- Be part of the group during charades if a team is unable to act out the scene independently.



Share

5-7 minutes

During our last lesson we brainstormed ways we could go green and become environmentally responsible. Let's check in and see how we are doing with our goals.

Ask each child to name one way they have been successful in going green. Although your actions seem simple and small, all of our little green actions build on top of each other to truly make a kind impact on our world!



Inspire

Responding with Kindness

7-10 minutes

The first part of the word RESPONSIBILITY is actually RESPONSE. A response is another word for choice. We can respond kindly or meanly. We can choose kindness or choose meanness. You have this choice many times throughout the day! Think back to this morning when each of us arrived at school. What choices did you make? How were you able to respond with kindness when you got here? (I chose kind words with the bus driver, I chose to hold the door open for others, etc.)

- Create a 3 column chart on the whiteboard. Label the sections: Student, Teacher, Parent

How can each of us respond with kindness throughout our day?

We can respond with kindness, even when others choose to be mean or unkind! It takes self-discipline to show kindness no matter what. We can do it!



Empower

20 minutes

Students will practice making responsible choices and responding with kindness by playing charades. Each scenario provides the students with an opportunity to respond with kindness and show self-discipline. Explain that a charade is like acting without words. No one in the role play is allowed to speak, but you can make sounds with your body (stomping, clapping, etc.) and use props. Use the talking points to expand on the responsibility connected to each scenario.

1. Your friend invites you out to play, but you haven't finished your homework yet. What can you do?
 - a. Some students may simply say no, I can't play. However, to incorporate "responding with kindness" they can explain the why behind their no.
2. You forgot your homework and the book you need for your book club at school today.
 - a. Admitting you forgot your materials is a great first step. However, responding with kindness includes making a plan to

remember next time so you don't waste your group's time in the future.

3. A bully yells at you and invites you to a fight on the playground.
 - a. Walking away is a great idea. However, responding with kindness can also mean you reach out to invite the bully into your games at some point in the near future.
4. Your sister slams the door in your face as you try to walk in the house.
 - a. Ignoring the behavior can be very helpful. One way to respond with kindness is to take it to the next level by holding the door open for her in the future.
5. The construction next door has left an empty lot that no longer has trees.
 - a. Planting a tree is a beautiful life-giving solution for that empty lot. Trees give us oxygen. If you plant a tree, you are giving others a chance for nice clean air!
6. Your dad is not feeling well and could really use some help.
 - a. Helping out around the house is a truly kind response! What else can you do when your parents aren't feeling well?



Reflect

5 minutes

We explored a variety of situations that allow us to respond with kindness today. If we pay attention, we can see opportunities every single day. Let's think of other scenarios to respond with kindness. Allow students to share their responses.

Every day you are faced with numerous choices: to respond with kindness or not. Although we don't often think about every choice we make, we are presented with options every single time we interact with someone. Our entire day is filled with friends, teachers, family, familiar people, and new people we are just meeting. Let's try to be more conscious as we move forward and try to respond with kindness, regardless of the situation!



Extension Ideas

- Divide the class into groups of 3 and have the brainstorm situations in which they have responded with kindness. Have each group share one answer.

RAK Notebook Prompt (See RAK Notebook Project in the Respect unit for more details):

- At the top of your paper, write, "I responded with kindness when..."
- Think back to a time when you were faced with a difficult decision.
- Write 3 sentences explaining what happened and how you were able to respond with kindness.
- Draw a picture to illustrate your writing.



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AND EMOTIONAL
LEARNING.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs.

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>