

LESSON 2: COOPERATION

Key Message: *Work cooperatively with others*

Lesson Objective: The learner will practice teamwork and cooperation.

Introduction:

Discuss with children the concepts of **teamwork** and **cooperation**. Read the story about Keelie (Resource 11) with the children. Discuss with the children the questions found in the story.

Closing:

At the end of the lesson revisit the key message with children. Ask several children to share their feelings about the key message.

VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS



Materials: Butcher paper and markers or crayons

Divide children into 3 small groups (you may want to divide them by age/grade). Give each group a long piece of butcher paper and assign them an element of the environment to illustrate: water, land or sky. Have each group work together to create a mural of their assigned place. When complete, display the pieces of the mural together. Discuss with the children how it felt to work together with their peers. Ask them if it was easy or difficult. Ask the children what skills did they need to use to work together (sharing, taking turns, communication, etc.). Did the group work together well? Do you think the mural is better because of everyone's work? Why or why not? How does the mural look with every group's piece in place? Would it look as nice if just one element was illustrated?

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT



Materials: Makeshift drums and/or percussion instruments (such as rhythm sticks, maracas, etc.)

Have the children sit or stand in a circle. Explain to children that a drum circle is a group of people drumming or playing other percussion instruments. Sometimes other instruments and dance are incorporated as well. Drum circles are not rehearsed and there is no right or wrong way to participate. Drum circles are important community events in many cultures. They offer an opportunity for the community to come together and share not only a rhythm but a good time. The individual sounds come together to create a single rhythm. Have groups grab anything to make a rhythm (including their own bodies) and begin to drum. Afterwards, ask children how it felt to participate in a drum circle. Did you feel a sense of community with the group? In what ways did the group cooperate to make the drum circle successful?



LITERATURE LINK

The Enormous Potato by
Aubrey Davis



BOOSTER ACTIVITY

Have children make rhythm instruments, drums, etc. from recycled objects. For example, put beans in empty water bottles to make maracas, use empty coffee cans and pencils for drums, etc.



VOCABULARY

teamwork—how people work together to reach a goal or solve a problem

cooperation—working with other people to do something



WEB RESOURCES

Have children visit www.bam.gov for more information about working with others.

SNACK ACTIVITY



Have children work together to make a friendship fruit salad. Children can bring a piece of fruit from home to contribute to the salad, but do not need to. Assist children in preparing the fruit and mixing it together in a large bowl. Serve and enjoy together!

*Check for food allergies.



DRAMATIC ARTS



Materials: None

Have the children stand in five small groups. Assign each group a different sound from the following list: rubbing hands together, snapping, clapping hands, clapping hands on thighs, and stomping. Explain to children that you will signal them to start by pointing at their group and to make their sound louder or softer by raising or lowering your hands. Lead each group in practicing their sound and following your hand signals. Then, explain to children that they will work together to create a thunderstorm. Signal each sound to start in the order they are listed above. Start each sound out soft and gradually increase its volume before signaling in the next sound. Reverse steps to quiet the storm. Ask the children how it felt to work together to create the thunderstorm. Would it have sounded as good without one of the groups participating?

+Let children take turns directing the thunderstorm.



GAMES



Materials: Cups, beans, beads or other small objects

Divide children into teams. Have each team stand in a straight line (one behind another) along side of a table. Place a cup filled with beads, beans or other small objects on the table next to the first person in line and an empty cup next to the last person. Explain to children that they will need to work together to pass the beads using their hands from the first cup, down the line and into the other cup and they must do so with their hands behind their backs. Give the teams 5 minutes to work before stopping play and comparing the amount of beads each team moved. Discuss with the children how well they worked together. Ask them to share anything they learned that helped them work together better (communicating with their teammates, patience, etc.). Collect beads and have teams play again.