

# Every Job Counts!

At this age, the concept of integrity can be difficult to understand. As such, the focus will be on learning about honesty. This lesson focuses on integrity through helpfulness. Students are a valuable part of the classroom and their helpfulness allows the class to run smoothly, but it is important to emphasize that being a helper requires honesty, perseverance, and finishing what you start. To highlight their value and demonstrate just how helpful they are, this lesson will emphasize the vital importance of class jobs and how they can show integrity through their hard work in our classroom each day.

**Integrity Sub-Concepts**

Perseverance, Kindness

**Lesson Timeframe**

45 minutes

**Required Materials**

- ☐ Blank Paper
- ☐ Basic art supplies

**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 be able to:

- Explain how each person's helpfulness contributes to the efficient classroom.
- Demonstrate integrity through the completion of their daily/weekly assigned job.

## Teacher Connection/Self-Care

Do your words and actions both inside and outside the classroom convey respect with regards to every student? Say what you mean and mean what you say. Your kind words and actions make all the difference!

### Tips for Diverse Learners

- Assign jobs based on abilities and conversation skills.
- Use picture cards to depict each job and have them available during this lesson. (The picture cards can be used during the chant to help give ideas to students.)



## Share

3-5 minutes

Discuss the importance of honesty in work. Ask the following questions and discuss what would happen for each worker:

- What is the job of a doctor? What would happen if a doctor lied to a patient?
- What is the job of a cashier at the grocery store? What would happen if they were not honest when they rang up your groceries?
- What is the job of a teacher? What would happen if I wasn't honest when I taught you new skills?

Every job is important and every job requires honesty and integrity. Integrity is doing what is right in kind in every situation. This also means we do what is right when no one is around. Like the doctor writing a prescription or the cashier counting their money.



## Inspire

7-10 minutes

Explain that helpfulness is helping others without being asked. This ties into integrity because sometimes we know we need to help, even if we don't feel like it. This means we may need to persevere through tasks or jobs, even if we don't want to.

Have the students look around them and identify one way they could show helpfulness right now. (Examples might be: pick up a pencil, wipe off whiteboard, pick up coats, etc.) Use a steady beat (clap) to lead class in a chant to provide structure and reinforce/support their ideas. Have classmates repeat each idea when prompted to do so by the teacher.

**Example:** "We can help in class each day! Together we can find a way! Sally can help, oh yes, it's true. Tell the class what you can do." Sally: "I can pick up a pencil!" "Sally can help, oh yes, it's true. She can..." Class: "Pick up a pencil."

### How do we show Helpfulness in our classroom?

7-10 minutes

Using your job chart, review each job listed and have students explain HOW that job shows helpfulness and integrity within the classroom.

- How is each job helpful to our class?
- How does each job show that we care for our classroom?
- What would happen if you didn't do your job with honesty?
  - Example- If I don't turn in the lunch count, we won't have enough food in the cafeteria, etc.



## Empower

20 minutes

Students will answer the question, "What would happen if I didn't do my job?" using pictures and dictation. These will be silly pictures showing a lack of integrity and helpfulness in our classroom. Give examples without using a

specific job that someone has. (What would happen if I didn't feed the fish, empty the garbage, etc.)

- Ask this question aloud to each student as you dismiss them to draw their picture. This will keep the idea fresh in their minds. Give helpful suggestions if they are stuck. (The trash can would overflow. You can draw that!)
- As students finish their pictures, have them dictate the answer to you. Write down exactly what they say below their picture. This can also serve as an oral language sample for the first quarter if necessary.
- When students are finished, have them convene at the carpet/circle time area.



## Reflect

5-10 minutes

Have students share their pictures and explain what would happen if they didn't help care for the classroom. After each child, review with the class the proper way to complete that job.

- Emphasize the value and importance of the jobs students do each day and the importance of every person in this class. When one person stops helping or is absent, our class feels it.
- Remind students that they need to be honest about if they are doing their jobs. We will know if, for example, a student says he/she picked up all of the crayons in the art station but really didn't. The art station would be a big mess for the next person! It is important to finish a job you start or that you said you would do!



## Extension Ideas

- Extend the activity by having students pair up and repeat this exercise by answering the question, "What would happen if \_\_\_\_\_ was absent?" Focus on how important that person is. Their presence is crucial to our classroom!



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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/>

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