

Pulling Together Web

Citizenship

Activity: Large group; Small Group

Goal:

- Familiarize the children with the idea of being a good citizen. Promote the benefits of working together.
- Expose the children to how their actions affect others.

Materials:

- One ball of yarn long enough to create a web for the group
- White board or black board or chart paper.

Note: The first time you introduce this activity, you may want to do it with a small group. Or, if there are two adults with your group, you might consider dividing the large group and using two balls of yarn. Once the children have practiced the activity with a small group, it will be fun to do it with more friends!

Directions:

- Write the word “citizen” on the board or chart paper. Ask the children if they know what it means. Remind them of any other lessons and the various definitions of a good citizen (protecting the environment, doing one’s share, working together in the community/group, obeying rules, etc.).
- Tell the group they are going to be working together and being good citizens.
- Have the children sit in a circle and explain the game. Talk to the children about teamwork. Emphasize working together and what might happen during the game when we do not work as a team. What will happen if someone lets go of their string?
- Hand a ball of string to one child. Instruct him/her to hold on to the end of it. Then have him/her roll the ball of string to another child on the other side of the circle. Instruct the recipient of the ball to hold onto the stretched-out string and roll the ball to another child. Have each child repeat these actions until everyone in the group holds part of the string. Children will need to hold the string above the ground so the ball of yarn can roll on the floor.

A “web” will have formed in the center of the circle. Step into the center and tug on one part of the string. Ask which children felt the pull. Repeat this several more times with different strands of the string.

- Ask the children what citizenship means. Say that being a good citizen means doing one’s share to help the whole group. Say: “We must all work together as a team, because one person’s actions are felt by others. If one of us did not hold on to the string, the web would not be complete.”
- Show how they are connected by pulling on part of the web again. Demonstrate what happens when one or two people let go and do not work as a team. Ask a child to drop their string. What happens? Have another child drop their string. What happens?

Continuing the lesson:

- Ask the children to think of other ways they are connected to their friends in the group. How do the actions of children affect other children?
- Use this lesson at the start of the day to remind the children about the importance of working together. As the children hold the string, ask each child what they will do (or what they did the previous day) to be a good citizen.
 - Play other games with the children that involve teamwork.
 - One idea: Use a parachute. Have the children stand in a circle, each holding a part of the parachute. Have them all sit together; watch the parachute come down. Have them all stand up together with their arms up. Watch the parachute rise in the air. What happens when friends let go of their edge? What happens when some children stand/sit too quickly or slowly?
- Introduce other ways we are connected to the larger world.
For instance, the milk we drink comes from a store. The store gets the milk from the dairy. The dairy gets the milk from the farmer and the farmer gets the milk from the cow.

Another example: The toys we play with came from a store. The store got them from the people who made the toys.

- Use this activity in other parts of your program.
 - When children are learning one another's names:
 - Say a child's name and then roll the ball of yarn to him or her. They then say a name and roll the ball of yarn to that child.
 - When you are recalling details of a story, a walk or a field trip. Recall what happened first, next, and so on.
 - When the group is done, talk about how each part of the story or activity is connected to the other.