

# CHARACTER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

2-3

CORE IDEAS AND PRACTICES



## INCLUDES

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Honesty
- Inclusiveness

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## Encouraging Interest

Help students to develop an understanding and appreciation for character education themes through reading stories. A list of picture books is included in this teacher resource.

## Blackline Masters and Graphic Organizers

Encourage students to use the blackline masters and graphic organizers to present information, reinforce important concepts, and to extend opportunities for learning. The graphic organizers will help students focus on important ideas and make direct comparisons.

## Character Cards

Use the provided character cards as a springboard for discussions and role playing, or to sort according to different character traits shown. You may also wish to enlarge the cards while photocopying and use them as a base for a Good Character bulletin board display.

## Role Playing

Role playing offers an excellent opportunity for students to become sensitive to how others feel in different situations and to develop empathy. Be sure to introduce role playing only after class members become familiar and comfortable with each other. In addition, set rules for role playing to prevent inappropriate behavior. In order for students to get the most out of role playing, include:

- an enactment of the scenario presented
- a discussion and analysis of the scenario presented
- further role playing of alternatives
- drawing conclusions regarding the scenario presented

# SELF-ESTEEM / PRIDE

*Self-Esteem*: confidence in your own worth or abilities; self-respect

*Pride*: delight or satisfaction in your accomplishments, achievements, and status

## Activity 1: Student of the Week

The Student of the Week activity is not only a great way to promote self-esteem and to instill pride, but will encourage students to learn more about their classmates and to create a community. At the beginning of the school year, have families choose the week that their child will be Student of the Week. In preparation for that week ask families to send in special photos such as baby photos to display, and a bag of items that the student would like to share. Dedicate a bulletin board display with the student's information, pictures, and school work. The teacher may also wish to include written notes from the other students that compliment or recognize the child chosen for Student of the Week.

## Activity 2: Celebrating Students

Acknowledge and celebrate children's accomplishments and positive qualities on an ongoing basis using the various certificates provided in this teacher resource. Keep track of which certificates have been handed to whom in order to watch out for certain behaviors or accomplishments for certain students. Certificates can be given out in the moment, or you may wish to hold a regular class meeting to recognize students.

## Activity 3: Perseverance

Have students set personal goals. Encourage students to persevere and to achieve their goals:

- Affirm to students your confidence that they can achieve their goals.
- Give students honest feedback on what they are doing well and what they need to work on.
- If a task seems overwhelming to a student, break it down into smaller, more manageable parts.
- Let students know that it is okay if something is not easy, and that they can work through obstacles.
- Stress the importance of "finishing what you have started."
- Talk about your own experiences.
- Celebrate accomplishments and have students express how they feel when they have achieved a goal.

## Activity 4: Developing Good Work Habits

Help students take responsibility for their learning. Encourage students to self-assess their daily work habits using kid-friendly criteria that are easy to understand. The How Am I Doing? rubric provided in this teacher resource will clarify what makes a good piece of work exemplary and the qualities of an excellent student.

\_\_\_\_\_ 'S GOAL

To achieve this goal, I need to

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I want to achieve this goal because

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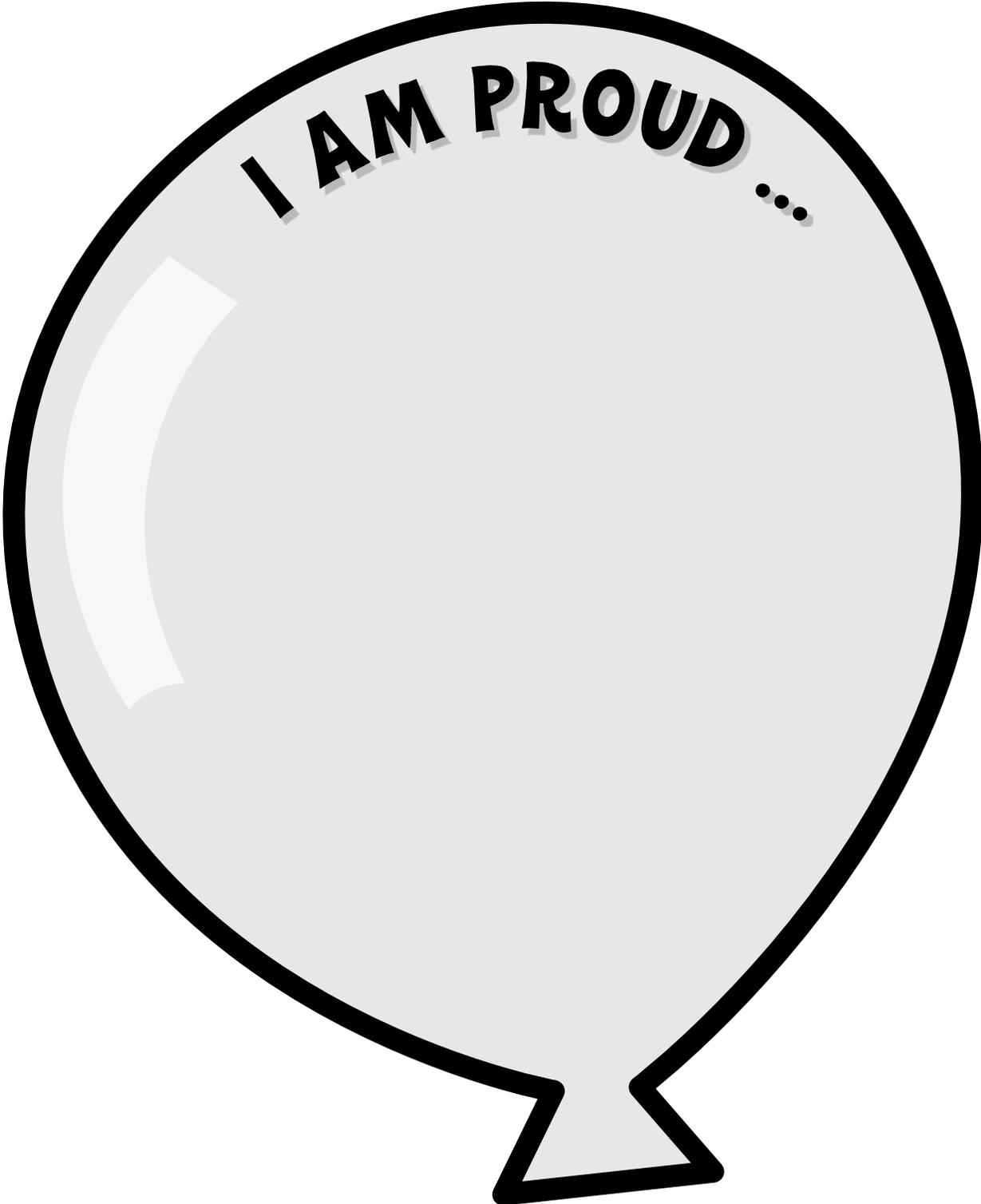
My goal is to

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# SHARING OUR PRIDE

Complete the sentence inside the balloon.



# STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Student Of The Week: \_\_\_\_\_

*Dear Parent/Guardian,*

Your child has been chosen to be *Student of the Week* for the week of \_\_\_\_\_.

Please place in the paper bag special items from home that your child would like to bring back to share with our class. Be sure to include photos of your child's choice to display on our *Student of the Week* bulletin board display. In addition, please complete the information below to add to the display.

Your family's participation and support are greatly appreciated!

**My favorite book:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**My favorite food:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**The best thing about school is**

\_\_\_\_\_

# WORK HABITS SURVEY

Good work habits help people get their work done. Here are some examples of good work habits. Take this survey and think about your work habits.



|   | Always | Sometimes | Never |
|---|--------|-----------|-------|
| I complete my work on time and with care. |        |           |       |
| I use my time wisely.                     |        |           |       |
| I follow directions.                      |        |           |       |
| I keep my materials organized.            |        |           |       |

Do you think you have good work habits? Explain your thinking.



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# COMPASSION

*Compassion:* Sympathy and understanding toward the needs and feelings of others

## Activity 1: People Have Feelings

Generate a class list of different kinds of feelings. Discuss situations that might occur around each feeling. Have students complete the My Feelings worksheets and discuss.

## Activity 2: Caring People

Ask students, "What does it mean to be a caring person?" As a whole group brainstorm a list of do's and don'ts for being caring. Ask for specific examples of each behavior they identify.

### Discussion Starters:

1. How do you think a new student feels when coming to a new class?  
What could you do?
2. What could you do to make a sad person happy?

## Activity 3: Acts Of Kindness

Brainstorm with students what it means to be kind. Record their responses on chart paper. Next go through the student generated list and have students associate the kind of feelings they have around each act of kindness. Encourage students to understand that they have the ability to make someone happy, perhaps by complimenting them or doing something kind. Have students make compliment or appreciation cards for students in the class or create coupons to give out to people as an act of kindness.

### Discussion Starters:

1. How does it feel to be kind? How does it feel to be mean?

## Activity 4: When People Feel Angry...

Ask students to remember a time when they felt angry. Have students explain what happened and how they handled the situation. Some situations might include:

- something was unfair
- someone was mean or teased us
- something was broken
- someone was in our space
- someone was not sharing
- something was taken away from us.

## Activity 5: Bullying

Help students gain a clear understanding of bullying. Bullying can be described as the act of hurting someone physically or psychologically. Students should also be made aware that bullies come in all shapes and sizes. Usually someone is bullied repeatedly. Some forms of bullying include:

**Physical:** hitting, punching, tripping, shoving, stealing belongings, locking someone in or out, etc.

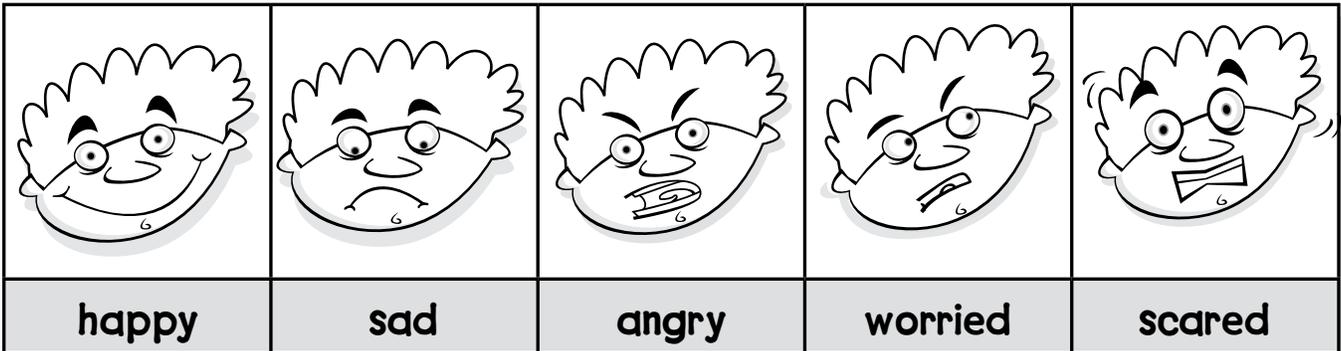
**Verbal:** teasing, putdowns, taunting, making embarrassing remarks, etc.

**Relational:** excluding someone from a group, spreading rumors, ignoring someone, etc.

It is the hope that if students can understand what a person feels like when bullied, students will develop empathy and help stop bullying.

# HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?

Describe how you would feel in each situation.



| Situation                                  | I would feel ... |
|--|------------------|
| I am going to visit my favorite cousins.   |                  |
| My pet fish died.                          |                  |
| I am moving to another school.             |                  |
| It's my birthday.                          |                  |
| I had a test.                              |                  |
| Someone bullied me at school.              |                  |
| My friend told me a funny joke.            |                  |
| I had to try something for the first time. |                  |
| A special event got canceled.              |                  |

# ACTS OF KINDNESS

Acts of kindness let people know that you care about them.  
Color the shapes that are examples of acts of kindness.

**sharing  
your snack**

**listening**

**being  
bossy**

**using  
manners**

**cooperating  
with others**

**including  
someone  
in a group**

**being  
helpful**

**being  
rude**

**teasing  
someone**

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