

Theme: OTHERS

Educational Resources: K- 6th

Title: Buddy Buddy!

Subject: Any

Prep Time: 45-60 minutes

Activity Time: One class period, can be ongoing throughout the year.

Activity Description:

The purpose of this lesson to learn about an “other” from another class and create a connection to that person. It is valuable for your students to know they have a “friend” in another class. Shared experiences make us understand and like other people, therefore we are kinder to them on a daily basis.

Direct Instruction –

Teachers from the two classes pair kids up for the buddy activity(s). Take time to discuss student’s traits that will be helpful to their buddy. For example: Student A is quite, shy, and smart. Look for a partner that is a little more outgoing and could use a bit of academic help. Both students bring something to the partnership. Let them know some of the benefits of buddy activities include increased engagement with the other person, opportunity for peer teaching, fostering new friendships, oral language practice, as well as listening and speaking skill improvement.

Group Discussion –

Explain to the class that you want them to get to partner who is an “other” to them. Getting to know people who are different allows them to expand their understanding of different traits and kinds of people. Let them know they will do at least 2 things with this buddy. Task 1 will be modeled by the two teachers. Show how to take turns, listen, and ask questions.

Task 1: Is to get to know each other better. They must ask and answer the following questions.

- What is your name and age?
- What are 3 of your favorites: food, subject in school, season, music group, sport to watch or play, animal, etc. ?
- What are 3 of your least favorite: drink, special class in school, month, tv show, sports team, bug, etc.
- What favorites and least favorites do you have in common? Give a story about those favorites.
- What favorites or least favorites are not in common? Give a story about the least favorite. (Why)

Task 2: (and more) Is to complete another activity given. Teachers explain that friendships strengthen by sharing experiences. Something as simple as going to the playground together creates an experience that allows students to get to know each other better.

*It is recommended that only Task 1 is done during your first session. Take a class period to introduce the Buddy System, then let the students take time to complete the “interview” of their new buddy. Task 2 should be a fun activity that gives the students time to create a bond in a fun way. After that, you can switch from academic to fun activities to give the students different experiences.

Partner Activity –

Task 2 Activities could include: Teachers either assign the activity or give the students choices.

- Read a book together- text or pleasure
- Make a picture / painting together – give it to someone else- possibly a staff member, injured student, etc.
- Make a recipe together- teacher brings in the ingredients and recipe
- Play an educational game together
- Peer teach spelling words to each other

- Service project together – write letters to soldiers, elderly, personal hero, neighbor, friends, anyone who has had an impact on you.
- Any other activities that you think would be appropriate.

Individual Activity -

Outcome Measurement:

After each session with their buddies, ask students to complete a short survey of the activity.

On a scale of 1-3 rate your participation. 1 = I'm not great at this and need to work on it. 2= I am ok at this, but could get better. 3= This is something I do very well

1. I listened when needed
2. I spoke when needed
3. I learned something new about myself
4. I learned something new about my buddy

Sources:

- SevenDays®
- <https://learningattheprimarypond.com/blog/why-is-partner-work-important-how-do-you-set-it-up-successfully/>

Aligns with Kansas State Standard:

- Social Emotional Character Development Standards, Character Development Model Standards
 - Character Development – Core Principles
 - Personal Development – Self-Awareness
 - Social Development – Interpersonal Skills

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****Disclaimer: The lesson plan above should be adapted to your class- grade level, knowledge base, time restrictions, class make up, etc. Only use what works for your situation.**