

Acceptance

Acceptance means respecting the differences among people. It entails recognizing different opinions and ideas.

Lesson 1

Read the description of ACCEPTANCE to the class. Read: In order to accept anyone or anything, a person must first accept himself or herself. Sometimes people have a hard time recognizing the good in themselves; therefore, they are uncomfortable and do not know how to react to compliments. A compliment is a positive statement given to someone. When someone gives you a compliment, you should accept it by saying, "Thank you." Have each student write his/her name on a sheet of paper, and fold it in half. Collect the sheets and randomly distribute them. Students must write a compliment about the person whose name is on the sheet given to them. Remind them that ACCEPTANCE is a characteristic of respect, and their compliment must be positive. Have the students return the compliments to classmates.

School/Home Link: Tell students to give a compliment to someone in their home. Remind them to say, "Thank you," when they are given a compliment as well.

Lesson 2

Review the meaning of ACCEPTANCE. Read: Today, we will be doing a group activity. I will give you a number from 1-4. (Issue each child a number like this, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, and so on) Direct each group to a given area by reading the following: All number ones gather here, all number twos meet here, number threes meet here, and all number fours gather here. Observe students reactions as some of them may not be in a group with their friends. Ask students how they feel about the group they have been assigned to. Explain that sometimes we have to ACCEPT working with people other than our friends. By working with other people students practice ACCEPTANCE. Thank students for their cooperation and ask them to return to their desks.

School/Home Link: Tell students to ask their parents if they ever had to work with someone with whom they were uncomfortable.

Lesson 3

Review the meaning of ACCEPTANCE. Explain to students that change is something that they often have to accept. Emphasize that change can be difficult to accept. Ask students to voice their opinion regarding accepting the following changes in the school rules. Read: Starting tomorrow our class will begin an hour earlier. Allow the students to briefly voice their opinion in regard to the new rule. Explain that although we may not always agree with change or have control over it, we have to accept it

with an open mind. As time allows, invite students to tell about a change they had to accept and how they handled it.

School/Home Link: Tell the students to think about a time they had trouble accepting change and talk about it with a family member.

Lesson 4

Review the meaning of ACCEPTANCE. Read: As citizens of the United States, we have to accept the laws of our country and state. These laws are made for our own protection. A common example of a law that young people have trouble following is the seatbelt law. How do you feel when you are asked to buckle up? Do you show acceptance to this law by following it? Allow for class discussion. As time allows, ask students to write a law they think needs to be passed. Ask them to create a response to someone who finds it hard to ACCEPT this law.

School/Home Link: Tell the students to ask a family member if they have difficulty in accepting any particular law.

Lesson 5

Review the meaning of ACCEPTANCE. Read: It is important to accept all people. Sometimes people gather together, forming cliques. Even if the people in the clique don't mean to leave others out, the outsiders feel rejected. Remember, ACCEPTANCE means not rejecting others. Think of a time when you have rejected someone—even if you didn't do it on purpose. Write a letter to that person explaining why you now accept them.

School/Home Link: Tell the students to be mindful of cliques in their neighborhoods. Remind them to accept all people in daily activities.

Common Core English Language Arts Standards:

SL.5.1, SL.5.1c, SL.5.1.d, L.5.1, L.5.5.a, L.5.5.c, L.5.3, L.5.4.b, L.5.5