

Excellence

EXCELLENCE means very high quality—something that sets a person or thing apart.

LESSON 1

Read the definition of **EXCELLENCE**. Discuss that excellence is looked at in everything we do, school work, chores, helping, playing, etc. Read the following scenarios to the class. Instruct the students to stand up if the scenario depicts excellence and stay seated if it does not show excellence. Read: **1) It's center time and you want to play with the blocks by yourself. A classmate chooses to play with the blocks too. You decide that the best thing to do is share. (stand up) 2) At home your mother expects you to pick up all of your toys before going to bed. You don't do it. (stay seated) 3) The teacher is giving directions for a task that needs to be completed. You choose to talk to your neighbor instead of listening to the instructions. (stay seated)**

***School/Home Link** Ask students to share what they learned about excellence with a family member.*

LESSON 2

Review the definition of **EXCELLENCE**. Ask students to draw a picture of them doing something where they showed excellence. Have them share and discuss the picture with a classmate. Encourage students to visualize themselves doing excellent work throughout the day.

***School/Home Link** Ask students to bring their picture home and share it with a family member.*

LESSON 3

Review the meaning of **EXCELLENCE**. Tell students they will learn a cheer for excellence. Pair students and assign each group a letter in the word "excellence." Instruct them to hold out their arms forming a large "V" over their head when you call out their letter. Once every one has been assigned a letter, begin the cheer by saying: give me an "E," give me an "X," give me a "C," give me an "E," give me a "L," give me a "L," give me an "E," give me a "N," give me a "C," give me an "E." When the word is spelled out, instruct the class to shout "Hooray!" and then to recite this short poem after you.

**When I try my very best,
I'll do better than the rest.
If I practice I'll excel
And shout "hooray" with a yell.**

***School/Home Link** Tell students to say the Excellence Cheer to a family member.*

LESSON 4

Review the definition of **EXCELLENCE**. Call on students and ask them what they would like to be or do when they grow up. (Examples include: being a basketball player, being a mom, being a singer, being a doctor, etc.) Ask the class to think of ways that they can show excellence now so that they may one day be able to be and do the things they'd like to in the future. (Examples include: do good at school, practice daily, learn from others, etc.) As time allows, invite students to describe someone they know who is in the profession they selected. Ask if this person influenced their decision and if so, to tell why.

***School/Home Link** Ask students to talk with a family member about what they would like to be or do in the future and discuss ways they can show excellence now.*

LESSON 5

Review the definition of **EXCELLENCE**. Tell students to recall yesterday's activity. Instruct students to copy this sentence starter: **"I am excellent at _____."** Ask students to complete the sentence. Then, call on students one after the other to read their sentences. After the last student reads, congratulate the class for being a class of excellence. Write this sentence on a sheet of paper:

Mr./Mrs. (Your name)'s class is a CLASS OF EXCELLENCE. Have each student sign the paper and post it on your classroom door.

***School/Home Link** Tell students to ask a family member to identify excellence at home. It could be a family member's behavior or even a special recipe that everyone enjoys.*