

# CITIZENSHIP

## Teacher Resource

### WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?

Helping my neighbor, community and nation.

### BENCHMARKS

- ✓ **HE.K.R.3.2** Identify characteristics of a good citizen in school and the community. Clarification: Following rules, listening and being a good friend.
- ✓ **HE.1.R.3.2** Demonstrate the characteristics of a good citizen in school and the community.
- ✓ **HE.2.R.3.1** Identify ways to benefit the school and the community. Clarification: Conservation, recycling, being a classroom helper and volunteering.

### PURPOSE

- These interactive activities will help your students learn the characteristic of **citizenship** and how to make good choices that help the community and nation. Share the suggested introduction with your students, choose one or more of the activities below, and conclude with the suggested wrap-up. Feel free to modify or revisit activities throughout the week to continue reinforcing **citizenship**.



### Suggested Introduction:

"Today, we are going to learn about **citizenship**. **Citizenship** means making good choices that help our community and nation. It's like being a helpful and kind member of a big team! When we take care of each other, follow rules and help our community, we make our home, school and neighborhood a happy place for everyone. Being a good citizen means we all work together to make the world better!"



### Activities to Build Citizenship:

#### 1 Resiliency Reading Connection

Share the book *The Man in the Red Bandanna* by Honor Crowther Fagan from the Commissioner's Book of the Month List to learn about good **citizenship**, bravery, helping others and being kind. After reading, ask students to identify characteristics of **citizenship** shown in the story and add them to a chart to display in the classroom. Continue to add to the chart as students discover other ways to show **citizenship**. Visit **buildresiliency.org** to learn about other books listed on the Resiliency Reading List; each title has a corresponding Family Reading Guide.

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GRADES  
**K-2**



### Activities to Build Citizenship (Continued):

#### 2 Good Citizen Role-Play

Divide students into small groups and assign scenarios where they practice being good citizens.

**Scenarios could include:**

- Respecting others' property: You borrow a friend's favorite book but accidentally bend a page. Instead of ignoring it, you apologize and try to fix it before returning the book.
- Treating people the way you would like to be treated: You see a new student join the class and he or she looks nervous. You invite the student to play and introduce him or her to your friends.
- Treating animals with kindness: Your neighbor's dog is loose in your yard. Instead of yelling at or chasing the dog, you let your parents know so you can inform your neighbor and get the dog home safely.

After each role-play, allow students to discuss what actions made them good citizens.

#### 3 "Helping Hands"

On cutouts of hand shapes, have students write or draw one way they can be a good citizen in their school and community. Display the "Helping Hands" on a classroom bulletin board to remind students and share with other classes what it means to have good **citizenship**. Challenge your class to find ways to lend a "helping hand" to the school and community by working to pick up litter or help another class. Each time a student successfully demonstrates responsibility and **citizenship**, consider adding a small token (e.g. eraser) to a jar or container that is visible in the classroom. Once the class has met the goal, celebrate with a favorite activity!

**Possible ideas for students include:**

- Picking up litter
- Showing kindness
- Following rules
- Helping a friend
- Sharing with others



### Suggested Wrap-Up:

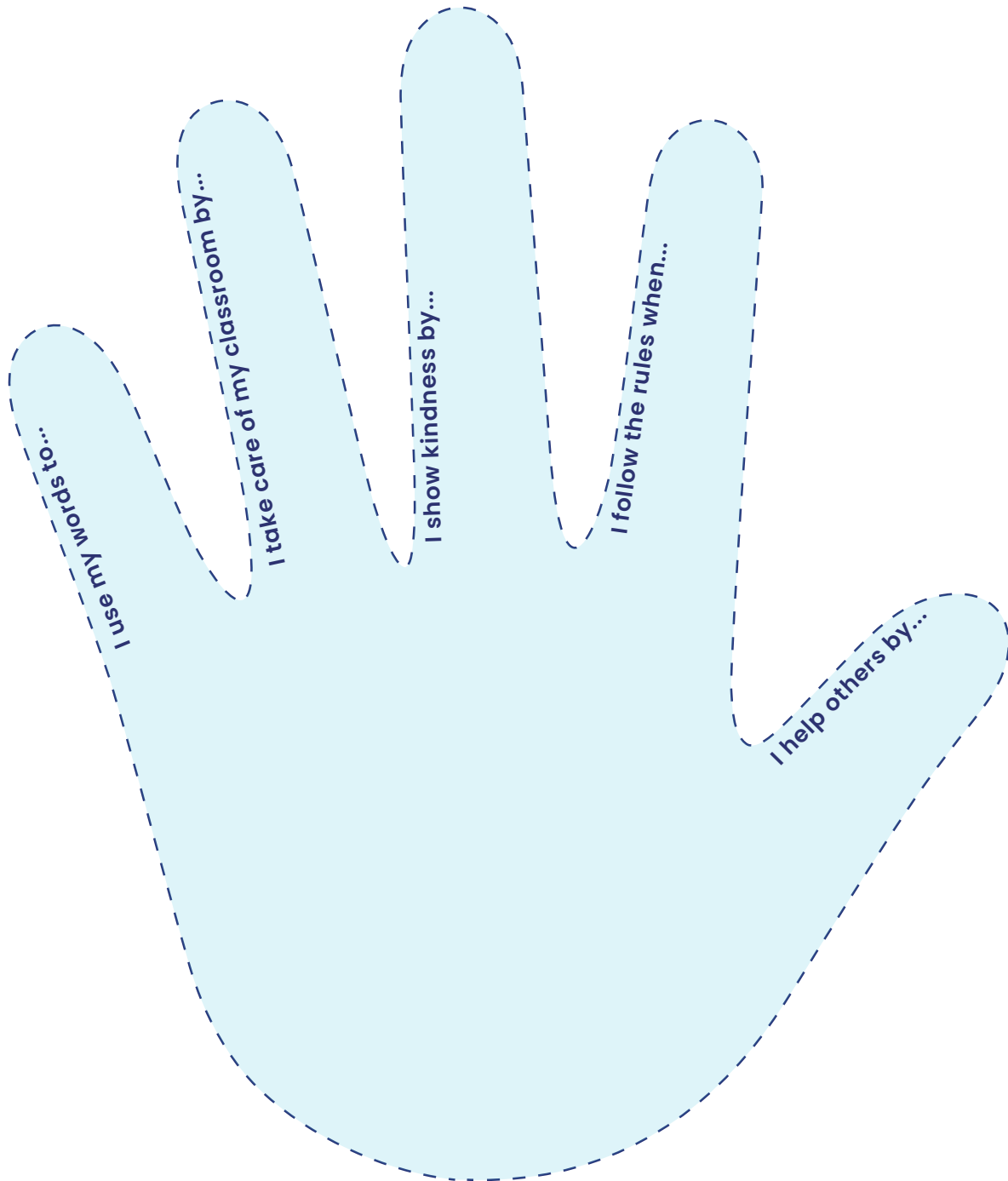
*Guide student responses or provide sentence stems.*

**"Can someone tell me what **citizenship** means? You all did a great job identifying the characteristics of a good citizen! When we take care of each other and our community, we make it a better place for everyone. Remember, even little things like picking up trash, saying 'thank you' or helping a friend can make a big difference. You're never too small to be a good citizen!"**

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## Helping Hands

On each finger of your "helping hand," write one way you can be a good citizen. On the palm of the hand, write your name and draw a picture of yourself being a good citizen. When you finish, cut out the "helping hand" and display it in the classroom to show how we can all be kind, responsible and helpful to others!



*This is a supplemental document to support the K-2 Citizenship Teacher Resource.*