



Relationship Skills

ABOUT CENTER FOR THE COLLABORATIVE CLASSROOM

The Caring School Community (CSC) program is a nationally recognized, research-based program for grades K–6 that builds classroom and schoolwide community while developing students' social and emotional (SEL) skills and competencies.

Buddy Interview Check-in

By: The Caring School Community

Buddy Interview Check-in

Lesson Purpose

Students:

- Reflect on their second Buddies activity
- Build on one another's thinking

The Lesson

1 GATHER IN A CIRCLE AND INTRODUCE THE TOPIC

Have the students gather in a circle with partners sitting together. Explain that today the students will have an opportunity to reflect on how the Buddy Interview session went. Review the class meeting rules, paying particular attention to any rules you feel the students need to practice.

Materials

- "Class Meeting Rules" chart

2 DISCUSS WHAT WENT WELL

Begin the discussion by sharing a few of your observations about ways the students took responsibility for making the Buddies activity go well. (For example, “I saw people listening carefully to their buddies during the interviews and asking follow-up questions to get to know them better.”)

Have the students reflect on the positive aspects of their interviews. First in pairs and then as a class, discuss:

Q What did you find out your buddy likes to do?

Q Do you and your buddy like to do any of the same things? Tell us about it.

 Turn to Your Partner

3 DISCUSS THE CHALLENGES OF WORKING WITH BUDDIES

Facilitate a discussion about problems the students had, and possible solutions, by asking:

Q What problems did you have working with your buddy?

Q What might you do differently the next time you meet your buddy?

Q How would that help?

When discussing possible solutions, encourage the students to use the prompts “I agree with ____ because...” and “I disagree with ____ because...” to build on one another’s thinking.



Some common problems:

- Buddies not paying attention to each other
- One buddy letting the other buddy do all the work
- The older buddy not knowing how to help the younger buddy without taking over
- Buddies disagreeing
- One buddy being left out (if working in a trio)

If only one or two students are having these problems, deal with them individually rather than in a class meeting.

Class Meeting Lessons

Mention that the students may see their older buddy around the school or in the community. Discuss:

- Q** When you see your buddy outside of class, what might you do?
- Q** How do you think that will make your buddy feel?
- Q** If your buddy is excited to see you, how will that make you feel?
- Q** How will your behavior toward your buddy help our school community?

4 REFLECT AND ADJOURN THE MEETING

Refer to the “Class Meeting Rules” chart and have the students briefly discuss:

- Q** How did you follow the class meeting rules today?
- Q** How does your behavior help us build a caring community?

Adjourn the meeting and have the students return to their seats.

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After the Lesson

After each buddy activity, spend time reflecting as a class on how buddy partners did working with each other and ways they can improve their relationships. Have the students generate possible solutions to any problems.