



Optimistic Thinking

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.

End-of-day Check-in

By: The Caring School Community

End-of-Day Check-in

ABOUT END-OF-DAY CHECK-IN CLASS MEETINGS

This check-in meeting is designed to be used as a model for daily check-in meetings throughout the year. Check-in meetings bring the students together at the end of the day to talk about how things are going—socially and academically—in their classroom community, to discuss their hopes and plans for the coming days, and to reflect on their problem-solving efforts inside and outside the classroom. Check-in meetings are meant to be brief. Allow 10–15 minutes each day to end on a positive or a problem-solving note.

In this lesson, the students are asked to share with partners and the group what they liked about being in school today. Here are some other possible topics for future check-in meetings:

- How are you doing with taking responsibility for yourself?
- What is one thing you learned today?
- What do you want to learn more about in our class?
- What do you want to learn to do better in our class?
- What is a book you read recently that you liked?
- What will you do after school today?
- Are we treating each other the way we want to be treated? How can we improve?
- How are things going on the playground? How can we improve?
- What is your favorite thing to do in our class?
- What do you hope to do in school tomorrow?

Lesson Purpose

Students:

- Contribute ideas that are different from other people's ideas
- Reflect on how they contribute to the class meeting

Materials

- “Class Meeting Rules” chart

The Lesson

1 REVIEW THE CLASS MEETING RULES

Explain that the students will have a very short class meeting at the end of every day to check in on how things are going in their classroom community. Briefly review the “Class Meeting Rules” chart.

2 GATHER IN A CIRCLE AND DISCUSS TODAY’S CHECK-IN TOPIC

Use the procedure you have established to have the students gather in a circle with partners sitting together. Explain that today they will talk to their partner about what they like about school. Ask:

Q What did you like about being in school today?

Say “Turn to your partner” and have the students turn and tell each other what they liked about being in school today. Signal to bring the students’ attention back to you. Have several volunteers share with the group. Encourage the students to contribute ideas that are different from their classmates’ ideas.

As the students share, help them talk to one another by asking questions such as:

Q What questions do you have for [Jose] about what he liked about school today?

Q Who else liked what [Jose] liked? Why did you like it?

Q Who liked something different? Why did you like it?

Turn to Your Partner



Continue to help the students practice listening and asking one another questions during discussions. If necessary, model asking questions like these to give them examples of the types of questions they might ask:

Q What did you paint during art?

Q What did you make during free time?

Q Where in the classroom do you like to read?

Class Meeting Lessons

3 REFLECT ON THE ACTIVITY

Share your observations of ways in which the students took responsibility during the meeting. Briefly discuss questions such as:

- Q How did you talk to your partner in a way that was helpful?**
- Q How can you act in a helpful and caring way during the next class meeting?**

Provide the students with a few moments of wait time before you call on anyone to respond. Have a few volunteers share their thinking with the group.

4 ADJOURN THE MEETING

Review how you would like the students to move from the circle. Adjourn the meeting and have them return to their seats.



In subsequent Check-in Class Meetings, ask reflection questions appropriate to the topic. Have the students reflect on what they discussed in the meeting or on their interactions during the meeting.