



Personal Responsibility

ABOUT MORNINGSIDE CENTER

Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility's evidence-validated programs engage young people in learning essential social and emotional skills and help educators build productive and respectful schools. The 4Rs Program combines superior children's books with engaging SEL activities that explore community, feelings, relationships, conflict, and problem-solving, adding depth to literacy instruction.

Gathering, Follow the Leader

By: The 4Rs



Gathering: Follow the Leader

Note to the teacher:

Follow the Leader is an excerpt from *The 4Rs™ [Reading, Writing, Respect & Resolution] Teaching Guide for Kindergarten*, Unit 7, Making a Difference, p. 93.

Brief activities can be used at the start of the school day, or before or after class meeting, an academic subject block, or story time to set a tone and help students refocus. Used before, it's a "gathering"; used after, it's a "closing."

Time: 5-8 minutes

Materials: none

In this activity, students take turns being "the leader."

The leader*does something (a motion or series of motions), and the rest of the children imitate the leader's actions.

Let this go for about half a minute, then say "Freeze!"

Now it's the next student's turn to be the leader, and so on.

Give several children a chance to be the leader.

Discuss: How was this game for you? What was it like to be the leader? What was it like to be a follower? In real life do you sometimes imitate other people? Do you sometimes follow other people's lead?

** To avoid worrying about whose turn it is, you may want to use alphabetical order or another simple device for deciding the leader.*

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