

Teamwork for the Win!

This lesson focuses on fairness and inclusiveness through a fun team building game that starts out with pairs and builds until the entire class is working together to win!

Inclusiveness Sub-Concept(s)

Fairness, Kindness

Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

Required Materials

- Bat's Big Game*
by Margaret Read MacDonald
- A bag of 15 balloons (already blown up before the lesson)

Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.



**DESIGNATED BY CASEL
AS A RECOMMENDED PROGRAM
FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.**

See last page for details.

Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Practice cooperative activities and inclusiveness through group games.
- Demonstrate an understanding of inclusiveness through partner, small group, and larger group activities.

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

How does fairness affect us as teachers? You are required to break up disagreements numerous times a day and teach others how to exercise fairness in a variety of settings, and yet the concept seems elusive to even adults at times. Although fairness has two meanings, for this unit we are focusing on the ability to include others without showing favor. However, this skill is often overlooked in adulthood. Favoritism cannot be ignored as most people have experienced both sides of this double-edged sword. How can you consciously choose fairness in your day to day interactions with others?

What subconscious tendencies do you have that may cloud your judgment? It might be a certain type of personality, a clique that has formed with close friends, or even getting stuck in the same routine every day during lunch. In order to practice fairness within your own world, you must first break out of your comfort zone and seek beyond the “usual”. Ask yourself this question each day this week: How can I treat people in a way that does not show favor for some and not others? Identify one action step you can take to move forward in your quest for fairness!

Tips for Diverse Learners

- Pair up diverse learners with native speakers that are able to fully understand the rules of the game to aid in understanding.
- Add music with a steady beat to increase attention for students that struggle to focus.



Share

5 minutes

Ask for ideas on ways to practice inclusiveness when someone returns to school after being absent for several days.



Inspire

Teamwork and Inclusiveness

5-7 minutes

There are many opportunities throughout our school year that require us to use teamwork and inclusiveness while we learn. We often work in small groups, choose partners, and complete projects as a class. Every time you are working with others, you have an opportunity to practice inclusiveness and show fairness through your kind words and caring actions. Teamwork is when we work together to get something done. We cannot have teamwork without inclusiveness. If we leave someone out, they are no longer a part of our team. That is unfair and we are no longer treating them with kindness.

Story Time: *Bat's Big Game* by Margaret Read MacDonald

10-12 minutes

Read Aloud link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-A4n1mYhjDk>

Bat must pick a team to play on and he struggles when his team does not end up winning.

- Have you ever felt like quitting a team or choosing a different partner?
- How can we work with others that are not our good friends (find something in common, become friends, focus on activity, etc.)?



Empower

15 minutes

Explain that the class will play a game to practice fairness and inclusiveness in the classroom. This game starts out with pairs and gets harder and harder as you combine groups. The goal during each round is to keep your group's balloon off the ground for at least a full minute without touching it with your hands. Players **MUST** be holding hands to play the game.

Round 1- Pairs

- Divide the class into pairs or small groups of 3. Your goal is to have all groups of 2 or 3. Give each group/pair a balloon and have them hold it in their arms. Start the timer and have each pair/group toss up the balloon, keeping it off the ground without letting go of each other.

Round 2- Small Groups

- Have each pair/threesome find another pair and form a small group. Repeat the game for one minute.

Round 3- 2 Large Groups

- Have the smaller groups join each other until you have two large groups. Repeat the game for one minute.

Round 4

- Have the entire class join hands and drop the balloon into the middle to start the timer. Repeat the game for one minute.
- If the class can work together successfully for one minute, time them to see just how long they can keep the balloon off the ground. Stop at 5-7 minutes if it takes too long.



Reflect

5 minutes

Gather your class together in your community/circle time area.

- Were you paired up with your very best friend in class? If not, how did you initially feel?
- Did your partner help you succeed in the game?
- How did it feel to be included in another small group?
- How did it feel to work as an entire class to accomplish the same goal?



Extension Ideas

- Take this activity outdoors to increase the difficulty with weather related obstacles!
- Send a non-inflated balloon home with each student and have them play this game with their family.
- Add a balloon and a short description of this game to your peace corner. When 2 people can't get along, have them play this game as a way to form a bond through teamwork.



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The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the [CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs](#).

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>