

Welcome Party!

Students this age love any reason to throw a party. The topic of inclusiveness lends itself to welcoming newcomers through kind words, caring actions, and fairness. This project is simple; throw a welcome party for all the new staff in the building.

Inclusiveness Sub-Concept(s)

Kindness

Project Timeframe

25-30 minutes.

Required Materials

- Handmade invitations for all new staff
- A large Welcome! sign (can make this in class)
- candy or snacks
- party favors including hats
- music for dancing
- anything party related!

Step 1:

Ask the front desk staff for a list of all of the new staff in the school this year. Read the list aloud; some of the people will sound familiar, others may not. Explain how each person contributes to the school (cleans, teaches 4th grade, helps out in the classroom, assists the principal, etc.)

Note: if there are no new teachers this year, you could select a teacher that was new last year or one that the class has never interacted with (like a higher grade level or administrative person, etc.). Also, if you are in a large school, narrow your focus down to new teachers in a specific grade or department if needed.

Step 2:

Create personalized invitations. Depending on the number of new staff, divide up students to focus on one specific person. Each staff member should receive the same number of invitations to demonstrate fairness (treating others the same way without showing favor to some.) Make sure you decide on the time and date of your party and include it in the invite!

Step 3:

Plan the party! This is a terrific way to incorporate Language Arts and Art. Work through the important components of a party: set up, refreshments, party favors, and entertainment. After your class has mapped out that part, have them create a list of 4-5 interview questions for each newcomer. This will be a great way to get to know new staff.

Step 4:

Party! When the staff arrives, make sure everyone practices inclusiveness by giving a warm welcome. Assign different jobs to the students. Some options might be welcome crew, seater, wait staff, etc. After all of the guests have arrived, interview them to learn more about them. Make sure to save time for dancing, a kindergarten favorite!



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

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/>