

A Class Full of Respect

This lesson focuses on Respect for our space, specifically the classroom and the common areas (hallways, bathrooms). Students will work together as a class to demonstrate how to respect various spaces. As time is precious due to shortened days in the kindergarten setting, this lesson directly connects with teaching your class how to keep common areas clean.

Respect Sub-Concept(s)

Self-Care, Kindness

Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

Required Materials

☐ Basic art supplies and blank paper

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.



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AS A RECOMMENDED PROGRAM
FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.

See last page for details.

Lesson Objective

Students will be able to:

- Create a standardized method for cleaning common areas within the classroom and the school.
- Examine areas requiring consistent respect based on daily usage.

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

Respect for your community is a natural result when one possesses self-respect and respect for others. This is the third piece of the puzzle under the heading of respect. How do you demonstrate this within your school and your community? Getting involved in organized opportunities allows you to give back in a structured, concrete way. However, don't overlook the daily random acts of kindness that you have access to within the school and your town. Simple tasks such as cleaning up the campus or turning off unused lights in your home to decrease electricity usage are also valid ways to respect your community. Stay alert to the opportunities presented to you. This will in turn help you pass this practice down to your students.

Tips for Diverse Learners

- Identify ways each child can help respect each space regardless of physical or verbal limitations.
- Use simple sequencing cards to help aid in comprehension.



Share

3-5 minutes

Have students identify ways others in class have asked permission and shared since the last lesson.

- *How did you feel when someone respectfully asked permission for your toy?*

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- *What type of kind words helped you know they were using respect? (Please, thank you, etc.)*



Inspire

Overview of Respect for Our Space

5-7 minutes

Explain that this lesson will target how we respect our common spaces.

The way we treat our classroom spaces and other common areas like hallways and bathrooms allows us to show kindness and respect to our school. Each day you come into our clean, organized classroom to learn and play. Why is the classroom so neat and clean every morning? What does the classroom look like when we leave to go home each day? Our classroom space gets messy multiple times throughout the day. If we treat our space with respect and kindness, our toys and supplies last longer and we can spend more time learning new things. In order to respect our space, we must be willing and able to follow directions.

Play this dance along video to practice following directions before the activity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qr9ge4XGUYs>

Note: If you do not have access to the internet, play Simon Says instead.



Empower

20 minutes

Open up 2-3 centers/areas in your room at the same time. Invite the students to go and play for the next 10 minutes. Allow enough time for toys and supplies to be taken out and scattered about as they play and explore. After each area has been somewhat messed up, signal a stop to the activity (this is whatever signal you have established for your classroom, such as a bell, give me five, etc.). Do not have them clean up. In fact, deliberately avoid announcing a warning or any clean up words.

Have the class meet back in your circle time/community meeting area and announce that the class is going to head out on a walk. Wait for someone to notice that they did not clean up. If no one says anything, provide a prompt, such as, "Uh oh, what did we forget?". Use this as a teaching tool to discuss respecting space.

- *Why do we need to clean up?*
- *If we leave all of the toys and supplies out, what will happen when we get back?*

Guide the class to the first messy area (ex. Blocks) and ask for volunteers to explain how they can show respect for the space by cleaning up. Have them explain the steps for treating this specific space with respect and kindness. Since this is the first month of school, you may need to remind them of the steps you have established. If you have a picture sequence chart for each area, use it to assist non-verbal and English Language Learners. Repeat this activity with all three areas that were being used. If time permits, explore the hallways to identify ways that area might require respect as well (no running, pick up garbage, quiet voices, etc.).



Reflect

3-5 minutes

Using pictures, have each student pick one area in the classroom and draw a picture of what that space should look like when we treat it with respect and kindness. The goal is for the picture to show a neat and organized area based on the classroom standards you have established.

- Have each student share their picture, highlighting the area they chose and what it should look like at the end of the day.
- Hang the pictures up above each space as a friendly reminder of how to respect the different spaces in the classroom.



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AND EMOTIONAL
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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/>