

Cleversticks

Bernard Ashley
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RESPECT

CONCEPTS

Respect
Kindness
Cooperation

SUMMARY

Ling Sung has a difficult time adjusting to school because he has trouble writing his name, tying his shoes, and buttoning his sweater correctly. When classmates discover Ling Sung using paintbrushes as chopsticks to eat cookie pieces, they want to learn his special skill. He earns their respect as he teaches them how to use chopsticks and makes friends who reciprocate by helping him learn new tasks. Brightly colored realistic illustrations complement the text.

OBJECTIVE

Children learn about respect in becoming aware of each other's talents. They will experience kindness and cooperation in helping each other.

Circle Time (in the Heartwood Circle)

Cleversticks

PREVIEW

1. Show a few pages of the book and explain that everyone can do something well. Ask children to tell something they can do well at home or at school.
2. Display items in the Prop Box such as paint brushes, poster paint, paper, crayons, disposable camera, jacket with buttons, tennis shoes, paint smock, chopsticks, and a copy of *Cleversticks*.
3. Together find RESPECT on the Heartwood attribute poster.

READING

1. Read interactively, with children responding to the text and illustrations.
2. Assign actions such as tying shoes, painting, writing names, and putting on an apron for children to pantomime while you read the story.

After the Story

DISCUSSION

How did Ling Sung show respect to his classmates? How did they help Ling Sung? How are you kind and respectful?

After the Story

ACTIVITIES

1. Take photographs of children performing tasks they can do well and helping each other learn new tasks. Post on a bulletin board with the title "Respecting Each Other."
2. During snack time have children try using chopsticks to eat broken cookies or crackers.
3. At sharing time have children explain how to do or make something.

WRAP-UP

1. Set up Cleversticks Centers. Use chopsticks activities at the back of the book for two centers. Add other centers related to the illustrations in the book, such as working on a computer, painting on an easel, drawing with markers, building with blocks, looking at books, and listening to tapes. Find out which center each child prefers.
2. In *My Heartwood Journal* have children draw pictures of things they do well. Under the title "I can" on each page, record children's thoughts about what they drew.

EXTENSION

Children complete the Home Connection Page and teachers record their responses. Send these pages home to children's families.

Expressive Arts

DRAMA/LANGUAGE

1. Prop Box: Use items in the box for retelling and acting out the story or for small group creative play.
2. Mini-Manners Plays*: With finger puppets model respect and kindness. For example:
Puppet 1: My shoe's untied!
Puppet 2: I'll help you. Watch me!
Puppet 1: I still can't do it.
Puppet 2: Keep trying! You'll learn.
3. Have children create their own Mini-Manners Plays.
4. Teach children to sign the word "respect."

ART

1. Together practice painting Chinese numbers 1 to 5.* (Keyword: Chinese numbers kids)
2. Have children paint their names and a picture of themselves on a large sheet of paper.
3. Together make sewing cards. With markers have children draw and color objects on cardboard squares, punch holes at one-inch intervals on the cards, and "sew" them with shoelaces.

MUSIC/MOVEMENT

1. With chairs, tables, and indoor play equipment, set up an obstacle course for children to complete. Make sure to include "spotters" to help children complete the course safely.
2. Listen to *Globalullabies* by Freyda during rest time.

*Visit www.heartwoodethics.org and choose Resources, Pre-K/K for additional vignettes, downloadables, and other activities.