

The Caring Being

It is important that children learn from a young age the negative effects bullies can have. In this activity children explore positive vs. negative behaviors and social interactions.

Age Appropriateness:

- 5 and up

Key Topics:

- Leadership
- Critical Thinking
- Role-Models

Skills:

- Critical thinking
- Communication

Materials:

- Large sheet of butcher paper
- Markers or crayons
- colorful construction paper

Action Time:

1 hour

Resources:

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/>

<http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/#/home>

OBJECTIVES

- To raise awareness about positive and negative behaviors.



Discussion

Amongst every group of people there are positive and negative behaviors. It is important to ask children to brainstorm together to think about what behaviors and attitudes they do and do not want to see amongst their peers.

Action

- Ask: "What behaviors or actions of the people around you made you or someone you know feel angry, sad, or hurt?" Give students time to think, then write or draw about the incident. Have volunteers share their answers with the group. Now ask: "What behaviors in this classroom have made you or someone you know feel good?" Allow volunteers to share responses.
- Have a volunteer lie down on a sheet of butcher paper. Have a group member trace the outline of his or her body. This outline becomes the "Care Being."
- Ask the group to think of some actions, ways of treating one another, or attitudes that they do not want as part of their community because of their negative consequences. Have volunteers write these negative words or phrases outside of the Caring Being.
- Gather everyone around the Caring Being and ask them to think about what actions, ways of treating one another, and attitudes would make your community the best possible place to be! Have children write positive words and phrases inside the outline of the caring being.
- Use the websites listed under "Resources" on the left for ideas for more activities.

Reflection

Go around the room and have each child reflect on the activity. Prompt the children to commit to being a "Caring Being."