



LESSON

3

Communicating with Empathy Unit

Grade 3 • Ages 8-9

TIME FRAME

Preparation: 10 minutes

Instruction: 30 minutes

MATERIALS

Caring Role-Plays, two copies, one cut apart before class

[Kindness Concept Poster](#) for Compassion & Caring

LEARNING STANDARDS

Common Core: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1, 1b-d Colorado: Comprehensive Health S.3, GLE.2, EO.b; S.4, GLE.2, EO.a,b; Reading, Writing and Communicating S.1, GLE.2, EO.a

[Learning standards key](#)

Caring Role-Plays

Students will practice kind and caring ways to respond in different role-play scenarios.

Lesson Background for Teachers

This lesson builds on previous lessons in this unit.

Key Terms for Students

Consider writing key terms on the board before class to introduce vocabulary and increase understanding.

COMPASSION Being aware when others are sick, sad, or hurt and wanting to help.

EMPATHY Understanding and caring about how someone else feels.

CARING Feeling and showing concern for others.

TIPS FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Students might benefit from:

- Having one student in their group assigned to prompting the others if they forget their lines.
- Working with a partner on their assigned parts.
- Receiving an index card with their lines.
- Being able to review the recording of the role-plays as necessary; have available on a class computer.

Resources

Ethics of Care <https://www.britannica.com/topic/ethics-of-care>

Caring School Community class meeting program
<https://www.collaborativeclassroom.org/caring-school-community>

RAK lessons teach kindness skills through a step-by-step framework of **Inspire, Empower, Act** and **Share**.

However, each lesson starts with the **Share** step to reinforce learning from previous lessons.



The RAK paradigm is the framework for teaching and building kindness skills.



Share (3 mins)

Ask students to share their responses from the Home Extension Activity with the class.

Inspire

Role-Plays (10 mins)

*The past few days, we discussed **empathetic** and **compassionate** things to say and do for people who are sad, hurt, frustrated, angry, disappointed, etc. Today we are going to act out some typical situations. Each group will get a different role-play. You will have a few minutes to read the situation, assign roles, and figure out what your group thinks might be a kind or **caring** way to respond.*

Divide students into groups of five. You may want to group students with different skills together so that they can support each other. Give each group time to develop their role-play. Suggest ideas if they get stuck.

Empower

Performances (10 mins)

Allow students to perform the role-play for the rest of the class.

Add any new kind or **empathetic** words and phrases or actions to the "Words and Actions that show **Care** and **Empathy**" sheet started in the last activity.

Consider recording the students as they perform their skits so they can watch them later.

Wrap Up (5 mins)

To gauge understanding of the material, choose from the evaluation and reflection questions as discussion, or writing or journal prompts. Consider providing additional time for deeper evaluation and reflection as needed.

Evaluation Questions

- How were the people in the skit kind?
- How did they show concern?
- What does it mean to have **compassion**?

Reflection Questions

- What are some ways that we can show concern and kindness for others?
- Do you think you get kinder the more you practice?
- Is there a way you can make someone else be kind?

Summary

Today we practiced acting out kind and caring responses to different real-life scenarios. As you face similar situations in your life, try to remember some caring ways you can respond to others to show empathy and kindness.



Act (2 mins)

Kindness Minute

You can help show kindness to others in our community by donating clothes or other used items to a shelter. If you have any clothes that no longer fit you or that you don't wear, ask an adult to help you donate them (or ask students to bring to school and donate them).

Kindness in Action

Write your own **caring** scenario similar to the ones they acted out in class. Then write how the characters in your role-play could respond in a kind and **caring** way.



Caring Role-Plays

Directions: Cut apart the situations and give one to each group. Make sure that each student has a part.

SITUATION 1: A third grader in your class is in a wheelchair and the other third graders ignore the student. You talk to the student and ask him (or her) to eat lunch with you. Create a skit to perform for the class where you use kind words to help the student.

Roles: Student in a wheelchair, Group of students who ignore the student in the wheelchair, Kind student.

SITUATION 2: There is a third grader at school who often plays alone at recess. She (or he) is in your class and seems pretty shy. One day, you decide to play with her (him), and ask others to play too. Create a skit to perform for the class where you use kind words to help the shy student.

Roles: Shy student, Student who wants to play with him or her, Other students in the class.

SITUATION 3: Your two best friends tease a kindergartner. You know the kindergartner doesn't have many friends. You don't like what your friends are doing. Create a skit to perform for the class where you use kind words to help the kindergartner.

Roles: Two teasing friends, Kindergartner, Student who doesn't want others to tease someone else.

SITUATION 4: Someone new comes to your school. She moved here from another country and doesn't speak much English. Some of the kids don't want to talk to her, and make fun of her accent. You were new last year, so you know what being new feels like. Create a skit to perform for the class where you use kind words to help the new student feel comfortable.

Roles: New student from another country, Child who wants to talk to the new student, Students who don't talk to her, and make fun of her accent.

SITUATION 5: There is a student in your school who hits kids sometimes. Some kids stay away from him. You want to be his friend but you don't want him to hit you. You decide to ask your teacher what you can say to him. Create a skit to perform for the class where you use kind words to help the student who hits.

Roles: Student who hits sometimes, Students who want to be a friend, A teacher.

SITUATION 6: You are at home with your brother and sister. Your older brother argues with you about what TV show to watch. Your younger sister argues with you about the game you are going to play. You don't want to argue, so you ask your mom for some ideas about what you can say to help solve the problem. Create a skit to perform for the class where you say kind words to your brother and sister.

Roles: Third grade student, Older brother, Younger sister, Your mom.