

Everyone is Responsible

This lesson helps students understand their responsibilities for shared spaces and things. We not only are responsible for ourselves, but we must also be responsible and follow the rules when we are in our classroom and out in the world around us.

Kindness Concept(s)

Responsibility, Kindness

Lesson Timeframe

35-45 minutes

Required Materials

- ❑ “What if Everybody Did That?” by Ellen Javernick - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD0apYFz5gg>

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.

Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Identify both responsible and irresponsible behaviors in shared spaces and environments.
- Consider what might happen if we all acted irresponsibly.

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

Being responsible is often equated with being perfect. Each one of us will drop the ball at some point. How you choose to handle those moments says a great deal about how you view your responsibilities. Take some time this week to examine your response to natural human error. Be kind to yourself and move forward.

Tips for Diverse Learners

- Students likely share common responsibilities (especially at school) but may have very different responsibilities at home. Consider this when asking students to share their responsibilities as that may influence how they view responsibility.



DESIGNATED BY CASEL
AS A RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM
FOR SOCIAL AND
EMOTIONAL LEARNING.
See last page for details.

**Share**

5-7 minutes

Review the definition of **responsibility**: *Being reliable to do the things that are expected or required of you.*

Invite students to share some of the things they have been responsible for in the last week. Ask specifically about personal responsibilities:

- Who brushed their teeth this morning?
- Who spent time reading and doing homework last night?
- Who ate (or will eat) a healthy lunch today?
- How did you move your body to keep it healthy and strong?



Inspire

5-7 minutes

Explain:

It is important that students learn they are responsible for their own bodies, minds, and hearts. They are also responsible for their personal and shared spaces and things - their desks and lockers (or cubbies) at school; their bedrooms at home; their backpacks, coats, and shoes; the books and toys in the classroom; the bus they ride to school and to field trips with other students.

Ask:

- Look around our classroom. What are some things that we are all responsible for here?
- What about our school - what are some things we are all responsible for at school?
- What about the school bus - what are some of the rules we are responsible for following so that everyone on the bus stays safe?

Invite student responses. They should talk about classroom, school, and bus rules; about keeping their work spaces organized and cleaned up; about everyone coming prepared and ready to learn. They might even point out that teachers and staff come ready to teach and support students.

Our success in our shared spaces depends on how we treat and take care of it. If our shared spaces are messy and dirty, or if we are not respecting the rules or treating others with kindness and fairness, then we cannot be successful and our shared space becomes a place that no one wants to be!



Empower

15-20 minutes

Read: "What if Everybody Did That?" by Ellen Javernick

Read Aloud Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD0apYFz5gg> (5 min)

Ask:

- When the main character made a poor choice and didn't follow the rules, why did people ask, "What if everybody did that?" (What would happen if everyone did what the boy was doing?)
- What *should* everybody do? (According to the book, the answer is "give hugs" though students might also suggest things like "follow the rules," "be kind to others," "take care of your things," etc.)

What Should Everybody Do?

As a class, go through the following scenarios and have students explain what everybody should do in order to be responsible:

Scenario 1: Your 2nd grade class is going on a field trip to watch a musical performance. You all get on the bus that is taking you to the performance. While you are on the bus, **what should everybody do** to be responsible bus riders?

Bonus: What would happen if nobody followed the bus rules?

Scenario 2: Your 2nd grade class is now at the musical performance. When you are sitting in the audience, **what should everybody do** to be responsible and respectful audience members?

Bonus: What would happen if we were not respectful audience members?

Scenario 3: Your 2nd grade class is leaving the musical performance. You go to a park to eat your sack lunches that you brought from home. When it is time to go, **what should everybody do** to leave the park as clean as you found it?

Bonus: What would happen if we left our lunch garbage all over the park?



Reflect

7-10 minutes

This could be a good time to review your classroom rules - especially if you are going through this unit toward the end of year and students are comfortable and/or getting a bit lazy or lackadaisical regarding rules. This is bound to happen as the school year goes on.

Use circle time, morning meeting, or a closing meeting as an opportunity to review the rules and classroom expectations. It is important to remind students what they are responsible for when they are at school and sharing space and things with other people.



Extension Ideas

- Have students talk about their responsibilities at home. What are they responsible for and where might they increase their responsibility now that they are getting older.



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/>