Responsibility Buddies

For this project, students will pair up with a younger student and help teach them about being responsible and persevering through challenges.

Kindness Concept(s)
Responsibility, Perseverance, Kindness

Project Timeframe
25-30 minutes, ongoing for a designated amount of time

Required Materials
❏ N/A

To complete this project, you will need to coordinate with a teacher in a lower grade - preferably in the K-2nd grade levels. The goal is to set up designated times each week or month where the 5th graders can be a Responsibility Buddy for a younger student.

The cooperating teacher may want to have the 5th grade buddies come to help with
- arts & crafts
- reading
- homework helper
- math facts
- stations

This project helps the older students model good, responsible behavior to the younger students and is a good way to form relationships that bridge the lower and upper elementary divide. The older students will also see perseverance in action as they help younger students overcome challenges and gain skills they have mastered, now, as 5th graders (but have likely forgotten how hard it was to learn when they were younger).

If your 5th grade is part of the middle school and does not have access to younger grades, you could set up virtual visits for reading or homework help. Or, your 5th graders can be teacher helpers or volunteer for jobs in the office (e.g., handing out passes) or in the kitchen (e.g., wiping tables).

Either option creates opportunities for 5th graders to act responsibly and build good relationships and reputations for being responsible leaders and good buddies.

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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/

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