

How Big is Your Hula Hoop?

Through teaching students about boundaries, we teach them not only to respect others but to preserve their own personal space and comfort level, which in turn leads to more self-assuredness.

Respect Sub-Concept(s)

Self-Care, Kindness

Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

Required Materials

- 2 sets of 3 different sized hula hoops (from P.E. department if possible)
- Personal Space Reflection page

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.



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

Lesson Objective

Students will be able to:

- Explain what personal boundaries are and how they are different for everyone.
- Establish a comfort level regarding personal boundaries for oneself and a respectful way to convey this to others.

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

As we dive head on into this unit, take time to ask yourself, “How do I show respect to myself? How do I practice self-care?” You must fill yourself up first before you have anything to offer your students! Try creating one positive goal related to self-care each school day to ensure you are putting your needs at the top of the list. Some examples might be: “I choose to focus solely on eating during my lunch break (and not grade papers!),” or, “I choose to write a positive affirmation on the board each morning to remind myself (and everyone who reads it) that each one of us is a valuable member of our classroom and school community.”

Tips for Diverse Learners

- Use circular swimming flotation around one’s waist instead of hula hoops for children with physical limitations.
- Draw simple pictures to accompany the more difficult vocabulary words including “Boundary” and “Personal Space”.



Share

3-5 minutes

Have the students gather in your circle time or community area. Ask them to explain the meaning of the Heart, Triangle, and Circle shape labels throughout the classroom. Use the following questions as a guide:

- What does the Heart Shape remind us to do? The Triangle? The Circle?
- What are some ways we can show respect for friends in the _____ area?

- What is one way we can respect our Interactive Whiteboard/Computer, etc.?



Inspire

What is a boundary?

7-10 minutes

Explain that respect starts with ourselves.

It is important to let others know how you want to be treated. One way to do this is by talking about boundaries. When we understand where our boundaries are, we can show respect more easily. Explain that a boundary shows where something stops. It gives an item or area its shape. Review the three shapes from the previous lesson and have the class identify them. How do you know it's a heart? Triangle? Circle? The BOUNDARY shows you the shape. We can use this same idea for boundaries in our classroom and school.

Ask the following questions to guide a discussion on boundaries:

- *Where does our classroom start? (front door)*
- *How far are we allowed to go on the playground?*
- *Can we run into the street?*
- *Where does our Block Area/Circle Time/etc. end? How do we know this?*

These are all boundaries! When we show kindness and respect for others, we are respecting personal boundaries.

Overview of Personal Boundaries

7-10 minutes

Explain that the focus today is on Personal Boundaries. Everyone has a personal space or bubble around them. This is your “personal space”. It is the space around you that no one can enter without your permission. For example, if someone wants to give you a hug or a high five, they need to ask permission. Some people need more personal space than others. They feel uncomfortable when friends get too close. They have a larger “personal space”. Other people really enjoy being very close to others and feel confused when friends are not close enough. They have a smaller “personal space”.

Read the book, “Harrison P. Spader, Personal Space Invader by Christianne C. Jones. Follow this link for a read-aloud version:

 [Harrison P. Spader, Personal Space Invader. Read Aloud kids' book.](#)



Empower

3-5 minutes

Using the book as a springboard, students will use different sizes of hula hoops to better understand personal space and identify a level that feels comfortable for themselves.

Place three different sized hula hoops on the ground. You will need two sets of each size. Explain that it is important to know your own personal spaces. One easy way to visualize what you are comfortable with is to “try on” different sizes of personal spaces.

Demonstrate how to select a hula hoop and “try out” the personal space by talking to a neighbor. Make sure to try on all three hula hoops and explain why 2 didn’t work and 1 did. “This is too close for me; I don’t feel comfortable. This is much too far away; I am struggling to hear you clearly.”

Have students come up in pairs and select hula hoops that work best for them. Make sure they check their comfort level by talking to each other. Repeat until every student has identified their personal space within the classroom.

As students come up and try on different hula hoops, ask periodic questions such as:

- How does respecting personal space show kindness to others?
- How can you respectfully let someone know they are in your personal space?

It may be helpful to demonstrate this. Emphasize how to respectfully invite someone into your personal space OR on the flipside, how to kindly let someone know they are too close.



Reflect

10 minutes

Using the reflection page below, have each student identify which hula hoop worked best to show their personal space within the classroom. Have them color the ring that corresponds with the size of the hula hoop they selected. For example, the outer ring would represent the largest hula hoop and the center ring would represent the smallest hula hoop. Allow each student to share their reflection page with the class.

You may wish to hang up these papers to refer to them when future conflicts over personal space arise.



Extension Ideas

- Personal space can differ across settings. You can easily extend this lesson into an entire unit on boundaries with people in general including strangers, community helpers, acquaintances, friends, and family. One terrific idea can be found here: <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/teaching-kids-about-personal-space-with-help-from-daniel-tiger>
- Add an at home portion to see what personal boundaries your siblings and parents might have.
- Discuss different times of day: When are you more accepting of others to enter your personal space? (mornings, recess, story time, etc.)
- Add the personal space rings to the front of each child's desk as a reminder of their personal space comfort level.



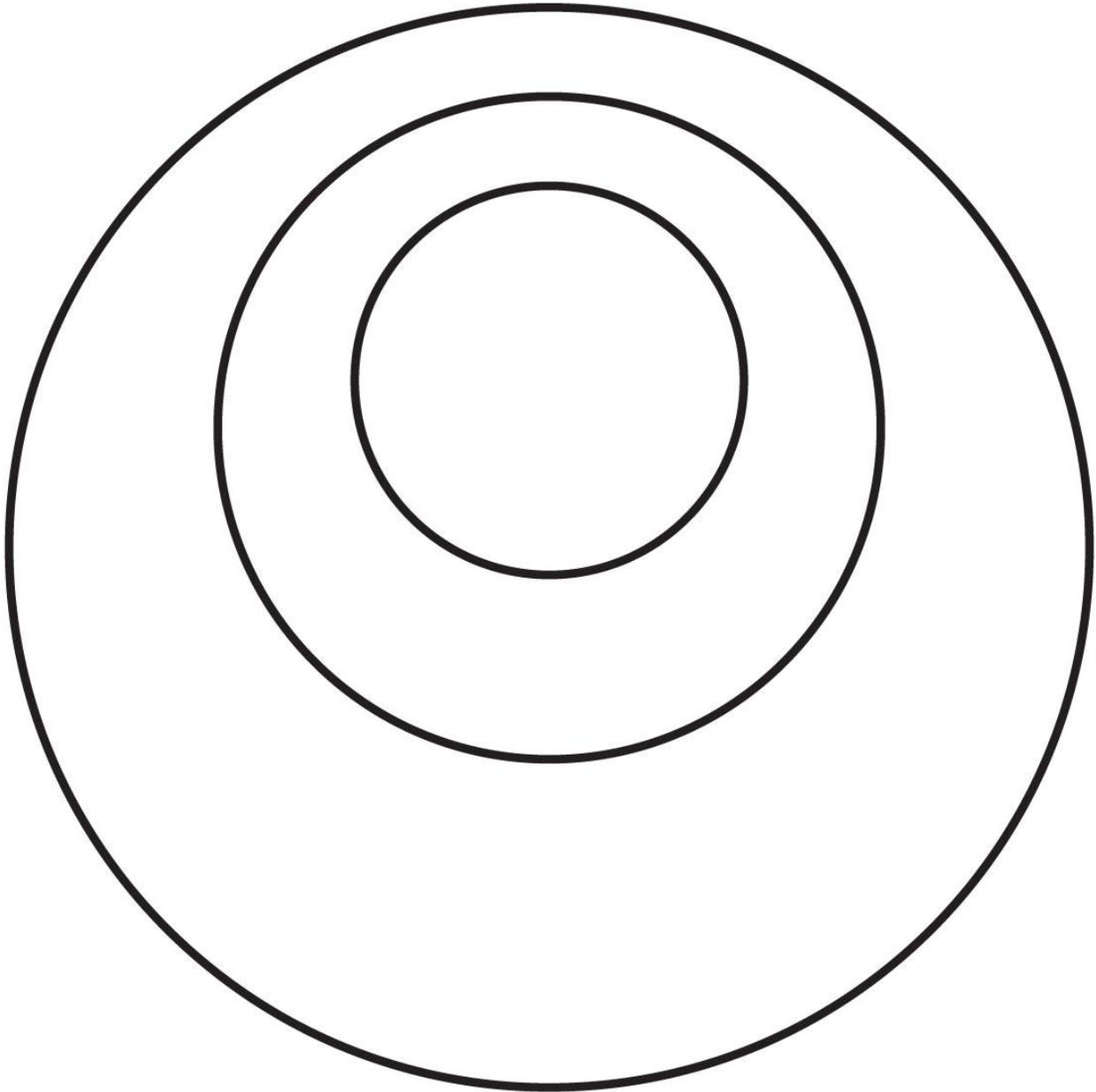
DESIGNATED BY CASEL
AS A RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL
AND EMOTIONAL
LEARNING.

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/>

Which ring shows your personal space? Color in the ring that matches your hula hoop!



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION®

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION®