

Welcome Committee

KINDNESS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM™
KINDNESS BOOST • OPTION 3 • RESPONSIBILITY

Lesson Timeframe

25-30 mins

Materials

- ☐ Responsibility poster (optional)



Share

Discuss the connection between KINDNESS and RESPONSIBILITY. Define responsibility: RESPONSIBILITY IS BEING RELIABLE TO DO THE THINGS THAT ARE EXPECTED OR REQUIRED OF YOU. (Show the Responsibility poster if desired.) We can practice kindness by responding to others in a kind way.

As a group, brainstorm ways to respond with kindness when someone chooses to treat you unkindly during a game.

Ask for volunteers; aim for 2-3 people from varying age groups.



Inspire

One of our most important responsibilities is to RESPOND with KINDNESS to others. This can be very difficult when someone new joins our group. Sometimes our silence may come off as rude and unkind. We may accidentally send a message that they are not wanted or welcome into our group, class, or game. When someone new joins our program, it is important to take some personal responsibility to ensure that they feel welcome. Our words and actions should be kind and welcoming. Making eye contact, smiling, and inviting them to play are all ways we can respond to new participants with kindness. Each of us has a responsibility to our group to promote kindness and inclusion to everyone that joins us, not just our close friends.



Empower

Explain that today the group will divide into small groups of varying ages. Each group will be responsible for brainstorming one idea for welcoming a new student with kindness. What type of responsibilities do we have as a group towards new students that join us? Encourage the groups to think beyond the basics: What would make you feel welcome? What has someone done that showed kindness when you were the new kid? How can you take ownership over helping the new person feel welcome and settled? (This part should take only 5-7 minutes.)

Have each small group share ideas with the whole group. If time allows, create a Welcome Committee of volunteers that are willing to extend kindness to new students as they join the program this year. Choose jobs that students can sign up and be responsible for such as, “Person who explains schedule,” “Tour Guide,” and “Welcoming Buddy.”



Reflect

Guide a discussion about RESPONSIBILITY and KINDNESS.

- How can we respond kindly to new people that join our group, class, etc?
- How does it feel when you begin a new class and no one talks to you?
- What is one example of a time when you had someone treat you with kindness when you were new?

