

Child's Growth and Learning

Domain: Social and Emotional Development

Key Element: Social Relationships

ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	MATERIALS
The Power of Words	<p>Student will show awareness of and respond to the feelings of others.</p> <p>Student will demonstrate knowledge that some words can hurt depending on how they are used.</p>	Two giant red hearts cut from tag board or a roll of paper Band-Aids

Lesson Plan

In a whole group, teacher will display paper hearts on the wall so that they are eye level for students. Teacher will talk about feelings and kind words and unkind words. Teacher will ask group for a word that might be hurtful. As one student replies, the teacher makes a tear on the edge of one of the paper hearts. "Those are words that could hurt your heart (feelings)." Teacher continues by setting a stage or scenario and asking the students for comments about hurtful words. With the next responses, students with the verbal response will be asked to make a tear on the paper heart. Continue facilitating the process. With empathy, ask students to look at both of the hearts. Provide opportunity for students to generate ideas of "healing" or "feel good" words. "What might we say to a friend that would make their heart feel good?" After first student response, place a Band Aid across or on one of the tears. Ask for other feel good words. With each response allow student to use a Band Aid to mend a rip on the paper heart. Compare the heart without tears and band aids to the one with. Explain that even with words that are nice or feel good words the heart with tears never is the same as the heart without tears. "Why might it be important to think about words you say to others that might be hurtful?"

Guidance/Facilitation/Teacher Behaviors

Teacher will set the stage for student awareness through visualization, of feelings, ideas and actions of others. Teacher will use open ended questions and guide process.

Procedure/Process/Expected Child Behaviors

Students will participate in a group discussion offering ideas based on actual happenings or personal stories of feelings and hurtful words. Students will practice listening and talking with others as teacher provides opportunities for participation.

Extensions

Cut out hearts might be available in short sided boxes located throughout the classroom. When a student hears or sees a peer using "feel good" words or performing acts of kindness, they can take a heart to the teacher who will assist in writing a brief description of the kind words or actions with the student's name. Some students may prefer to "write" their own description, draw a picture, or copy the other students name on the heart. Hearts can be taped or stapled to a bulletin board.

Evaluation

Students will begin to listen during play and conversation for other students using kind or unkind words or actions. Students will begin to show awareness of and respond to the feelings of others by interacting empathetically and cooperatively.