

Golden Rule Lesson Plan Example

Materials Needed:

- Golden Rule Poster
- Tally Mark Poster
- Read Aloud Library Book
- Golden Rule Situation Cards
- Tally Mark Worksheet
- Writing Paper
- Cover stock or construction paper for class book cover

Notes

Adjust directions as necessary to fit your grade level.

Thematic Activity: Golden Rule

Read the Golden Rule poster. Discuss its meaning. Act out a few examples of school behaviors that do and do not follow the Golden Rule. Have students put thumbs up or down to indicate if your actions are “golden” or not. Divide the class into teams to plan and present Golden Rule skits. As each group presents their example, the rest of the students will show thumbs up or down, as before. End with another, deeper discussion of what the Golden Rule means, and how it can be helpful in your classroom.

Math: Using Tally Marks

Show the tally mark poster. Have students read the title and make observations and comments about it. Guide students to an understanding of the use of the marks by asking directed, guiding questions. Count the marks by ones, and then count them by fives. Discuss why the marks might always come in sets of 5.

Using a movement rhythm chant (such as “straight, straight, straight-straight, slash”), have the students draw some tally marks in the air, on their hands, on a foot, on their arm, etc.

When you feel the children are ready, give them individual whiteboards and markers (or a folded piece of paper and a pencil). Practice making tally marks by playing a noise game. Clap (at a medium speed) and have the children make a tally mark for each clap you make. Always clap in multiples of five. After recording, count the marks by counting by fives.

Now make a set of noises that don’t come in “fives.” Explain that the marks don’t always end in an even set of five. Show an example. Ask why that would be. Continue with the noise game--you could stomp your feet, slap your leg, burp, scream, cry, etc., but don’t always do it in even sets of five. Then have the whole class practice counting the tally marks. Finally have individuals count. When you feel they are ready, have each student get a partner and play together. One student makes the sound, the other student records and reads. Reverse roles. The students will check each other.

Literature Read Aloud library book

Choose a picture book from your school library that illustrates use of the Golden Rule. Here are a few suggestions:

[Horton Hatches the Egg](#) by Dr. Seuss [The Golden Rule](#) by Ilene Cooper (discussion starter) [Madeline in London](#), [Madeline and the Bad Hat](#), and [Madeline’s Rescue](#), by Ludwig Bemelmans [Coat of Many Colors](#) by Dolly Parton [Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler](#) by Margery Cuyler [Don’t Laugh at Me](#) by Steve Seskin

For older students, many of the [Mrs. Piggle Wiggle](#) books by Betty MacDonald work well.

Class Book: Writing sentences/paragraphs

In a group circle, have children share examples of how they like to be treated. Then give them writing paper and have each student write a sentence, or paragraph, and illustrate it. Share the writings, and then bind them together to make a class Golden Rule book. Place it in your classroom library and review it with the students from time to time throughout the year.

Listening Comprehension: Golden Rule Situation Cards

Give each student a Tally Marks worksheet. Read a Golden Rule Situation Card to the class. Have the students make a tally mark on their worksheet to show if the actions represented were in line with the Golden Rule or not. Discuss any situations that cause disagreement, if necessary.

You can play this game as a sponge activity throughout the day, reading just a card or two at a time.

Physical Education: Golden Rule Relays

Divide the class into two teams. One person of the team will be “It.” Send “It” down to the other end of the relay zone.

The students will run, walk, slide, crawl, etc. to “It.” “It” will tell them where and how to tag him. For example, “Please tag my hand gently.” “Please tap my knee,” and so on. The runner will then follow his direction, and run back to the line, tagging the next in line respectfully. Each team gets a point for doing as requested. The team with the most points wins.

