

The Golden Rule: Tally Marks



Students will learn the function of tally marks, how to make them, and how to count them. They will use tally marks to record actions that follow the Golden Rule.

Preparation:

Run the poster off on photo paper (for best quality), cover stock, or heavy white drawing paper.

Golden Rule Tally Marks Lesson:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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. Count the marks by counting by fives.
4. 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, by fives and then ones.
5. 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.

After the Lesson:

Set aside an area on your whiteboard to record observations of student (and teacher) actions that follow the Golden Rule. Record each action using a tally mark. At the end of the day, record the number of actions on a graph (see file 6).



Tally Marks

