

Character and Life Skills K-8

Lesson Title: *Friendship and Respect*

Grade Level: Elementary and Middle School

Main Character: Sarah and Gema

SEL Competencies: Relationship Skills, Social Awareness

Introduction

Sarah and Gema are friends who met at school. When Sarah started a new school during the school year, Gema befriended her during recess. In order to communicate better with her friend Sarah learned how to sign. Now they are not only friends, but Sarah has also used her language skills to help other students who have limited hearing.

Activity 1

Watch the video: *Friendship and Respect*

Activity 2

If you are working with a team, each person should take time to reflect individually before discussing with a partner or the group.

Think about the academic learning that occurs in the film.

Take a few minutes to brainstorm the academic skills that we see in the video. As you write these down consider what motivates the student to perform this skill or skill set.

Sometimes teachers do not think about how students are motivated to learn, we often just tell students we have to learn something because it is part of the curriculum. Look at your list. If you were teaching these two students, why did they decide to learn the things that they did (there is no mention of a teacher anywhere in the video)? What interests do some of your students have that you may not have utilized in the past to help students learn something new? What actions could you take in the future to use your students' intrinsic motivation?

Activity 3

Watch the *Friendship and Respect* video again.

Sarah specifically mentions “kindness” in the video. Think about your context, how can kindness be taught? Write down two or three ideas for lessons you can use to teach the concept of kindness to your students. Why is explicit teaching of social emotion concepts important?

Now think about kindness in a different context. How do you rate yourself in creating opportunities for students to actually practice being kind to each other? Why do you rate yourself as you do? What actions can you take in your classroom or support role to create more opportunities for students to practice being kind to each other? What additional resources might you need to help put your plan into action?

Activity 4

Consider your school context.

How well does your school do in explicit teaching of the concepts of kindness and/or respect? Do you believe this level of explicit teaching is adequate? Why or why not?

Besides explicit teaching of kindness and respect, how do you rate your school program in providing opportunities for students to practice being kind and being respectful to each other? What is working well? What needs greater focus? What actions are needed and who are the allies in addressing these issues?