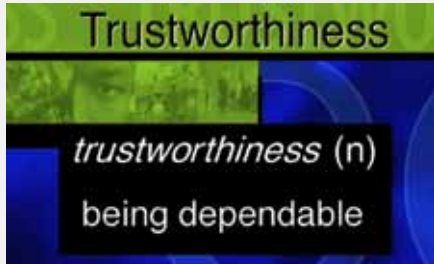


Character and Life Skills: Trustworthiness

Lesson Title: Trustworthy Relationships

Grade Level: 3-5



Project and Purpose

Students describe the value of trust in various relationships and methods of coping with a betrayal of trust.

Essential Question

Why is it important to be trustworthy and what are the qualities of a trustworthy person?

Materials

- Pens, pencils, crayons, markers
- Smart board, white board or chart paper
- **Trustworthy Relationships** worksheet

Procedure

Introduction

Tell students that in this session they will be discussing what makes a person trustworthy and how to cope with situations where someone has betrayed their trust.

Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Tell students the following story:

Anish loved everything about school, especially his teacher, Mr. Soto. Mr. Soto had the coolest hobby: photography. He traveled the world and took pictures of people, places, and things that Anish could only dream about, but the pictures were so wonderful, they made Anish feel like he was there.

Mr. Soto announced that he would be starting a photography club. People could use their phones or a camera, and he would help them take better pictures. If they did not have their own camera, the students could use one of Mr. Soto's during the club time.

Anish was thrilled! He did not have a camera or a phone, but he could borrow Mr. Soto's and learn to take exciting pictures!

The first class, Mr. Soto explained how the camera worked, how to focus and zoom in, find the right light, and frame a picture. Anish must have taken 100 shots!

At the end of the class, Mr. Soto asked everyone to put the cameras on his desk. Anish was the last one with a camera in his hands. Right at the moment he was going to put it back, Mr. Soto received a phone call and had to turn away to talk. Anish thought, "I can get better if I take the camera home and

practice taking pictures.” Before Mr. Soto finished his call, Anish shoved the camera into his backpack and scooted out the door.

When Anish got home, his mom opened his backpack to remove his lunchbox, but right there on top was Mr. Soto’s camera.

His mother confronted him, and no matter how Anish tried to explain away his actions, he knew he had done something wrong.

His mother called the school and told Mr. Soto that Anish would return the camera first thing in the morning—and apologize.

That next morning, a very disappointed Mr. Soto met Anish at the classroom door. Anish apologized and handed him the camera, barely able to look Mr. Soto in the eyes.

Mr. Soto said, “I appreciate your apology, Anish, but you will have to work very hard to earn my trust back.”

2. Ask students what this story has to teach about trustworthiness and regaining trust.
3. Ask students why it is important to be a trustworthy person.

Guided Exploration (We do)

1. Ask your students to discuss the traits that would make a person trustworthy. Examples: telling the truth, doing what you say you’re going to do, doing the right thing, keeping secrets, etc.
2. Explain to your students that many relationships in a person’s life are based on trust. Ask your students to brainstorm a list of examples and record their responses on the board or chart paper.

Note: Encourage your students to think beyond personal relationships.

- Examples: trusting your bank to protect the money in your account, having faith that firefighters will put out a fire before it destroys a house, having confidence in the cashier at a local fast-food restaurant, etc.
3. Distribute the **Trustworthy Relationships** worksheet to the class. Explain the following procedure to your students:
 - Students will work with a small group to complete the **Trustworthy Relationships** worksheet.
 - Students will work together in their groups to brainstorm three additional relationships that require some amount of trust or confidence.
 - Students and their small group will discuss the reasons why trust and confidence are important for each relationship listed in Column 1. Students will write their responses in Column 2.
 - Finally, students and their small group will discuss various methods of coping with betrayal of trust in at least two of the relationships listed in Column 1. Students will record these responses on the lines at the bottom of the page.

Independent Practice (You do)

1. Divide the class into small groups and allow time for them to work on the **Trustworthy Relationships** worksheet.
2. Monitor the small groups as they work.

Conclusion

Call on a few groups to share some of the ideas they came up with aloud. Discuss with the class what it means to be a trustworthy person.

Vocabulary

betray (v.)

Definition: to be disloyal to someone who trusts you

Context: Barika betrayed Casper's trust by telling his secrets.

confidence (n.)

Definition: the feeling that a person can trust someone or something to be good, work well or produce good results

Context: Dimitri lost confidence in his study skills after learning that he failed the test.

trustworthiness (n.)

Definition: the state of being dependable; the amount a person can be depended on and believed

Context: Normally, students are not allowed to work in the office, but because of Tamara's trustworthiness, school administrators have made an exception.

Teacher Notes

Character and Life Skills: Trustworthiness

Activity: Trustworthy Relationships

Grade Level: 3-5

My Name _____

Directions

Work with your parents/guardians to complete the chart below. Column 1 lists types of relationships with people, products, etc., that require some amount of trust or confidence in order to be successful. Read through this list with your parents/guardians, and then work with them to add three new relationships to Column 1. For each relationship, explain why it is important that you have trust or confidence.

| It is important to trust a relationship with... | Because... |
|---|------------|
| Advertisements | |
| Doctors | |
| Family | |
| Friends | |
| History books | |
| Newspapers | |
| Nutrition labels | |
| Parents | |
| Teachers | |
| President of the United States | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Character and Life Skills: Trustworthiness

Activity: Trustworthy Relationships (Discussion)

Grade Level: 3-5

My Name

Directions

Select two relationships from the list to discuss with your parents/guardians. How could you cope with a betrayal or loss of trust in that relationship? Write your answers on the lines below.

1.

2.
