
Lesson Plan

What is Honesty- Worksheet

Objective

Students will understand the following:

1. Honesty is about being truthful in what you say and in what you do.
2. Honesty includes telling the truth (not lying), not hiding the truth (deceiving), and acting in a way that is morally right (not stealing, cheating).
3. Honesty is important to how a society functions.

Grade Level

Grades 2-4

Standards

Supports learning standards in social studies and health.

- Students understand the individual responsibilities of citizenship and promoting a civil society.
- Students demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health and to create positive personal relationships.

SEL Topics:

- Social Skills, Self Management
- Positive Relationships
- Decision Making

Character Traits:

- Honesty, Trustworthiness

Materials

Links to all materials can be found in the online version of this Lesson Plan

1. Be Proud, Book 1, Talking with Trees (print or ebook)
2. What is Honesty Worksheet, Grades 2-4

Vocabulary

Honesty- Only doing or saying things that are truthful and morally right. Honesty is built from positive attributes such as truthfulness, fairness, sincerity, trustworthiness, straightforwardness.

- telling the truth (not lying)
- acting in a way that is truthful and doesn't hide the truth (not deceiving)
- only doing things that are morally right (not stealing or cheating)

Truthful- How something really is or how it really happened.

Morally right - Behaviors a society considers correct or “right”. A society’s moral code defines which actions and intentions are right and wrong

Procedures

Define honesty and discuss examples of what honesty is.

Discuss the concept of honesty (see vocabulary section) and related attributes (truthfulness, fairness, sincerity, trustworthiness, straightforwardness). Ask the class for examples of behaviors that are honest and dishonest.

Some examples of honesty may include telling the truth, treating people fairly / not taking advantage of people, really meaning what you say, doing what you say you will do, telling the whole truth.

Examples of dishonesty may include: lying, not telling the whole truth (lies of omission), bending the truth (misrepresenting the facts or deceiving), hiding the truth, stealing, cheating.

Discuss why honesty is important to a society.

Pose the question, “What if it was ok to be dishonest? What if our society and laws said it was ok for people to lie, steal, and cheat each other?” Allow the children to talk about what could happen and how that would feel.

Honesty is a cornerstone of people living peacefully together. We need to know our friends, family, and leaders have a common belief in being truthful and trustworthy in order to have a basic level of security.

Discuss why honesty is important in friendships.

Discuss how honesty is essential to having positive relationships. For relationships to work, we each need to know we will treat each other fairly and truthfully.

Pose some questions that reveal how honesty is important to maintaining positive friendships:

“What if each time your friend came over, she took one of your toys without asking, decided it was hers, and brought it home forever.” (Stealing)

“What if you studied hard and your friend didn’t, then he copied all your answers?” (Fairness)

“What if your friend lost a school book but told the teacher you were the one who lost it?” (Lying)



Discuss how honesty is important with parents and teachers.

When you are consistently honest, parents and teachers know they can trust you to make good choices. As you grow up, parents and teachers won't be there to supervise you all the time. By being consistently honest, you are showing them they can trust you to be safe and well when you are on your own. If they feel they can't trust you, you won't get to do as many things or make your own choices.

Pose some questions on the importance of honesty in establishing trust:

"What if you are at school and tell the teacher you are going to the restroom, but the teacher finds out you really took the iPod you hid in your back pack and played games in the bathroom?" This impacts trust. The teacher is not going to trust you to do things on your own next time.

"What if you are playing ball and accidentally break a flower pot. Your mom asks how it happened and you tell her you don't know. But you don't realize she actually saw you do it." She knows you lied about this, so next time she won't be able to trust you are telling the truth. Maybe next time you really don't know what happened, but she may assume you are lying again.

Complete the honesty worksheet

Either individually or in small groups, have children complete the What is Honesty Worksheet, Grades 2-4, identifying the honest action in each situation. Children should explain why an action is honest or dishonest. Honesty worksheet teacher's guide is included with the honesty worksheet.