

Building Inclusiveness—Lego Style!

Students love to use their hands to learn, explain, and explore. This project allows them a concrete way to illustrate how they could practice inclusiveness in the classroom.

Caring Sub-Concept(s)

Kindness

Project Timeframe

25-30 minutes

Required Materials

- A bowl of Legos for each group
- Lego mat for each student (optional)
- Use larger Duplo Legos for children with manual dexterity struggles

The project is simple: Put students into small groups of 3 or 4 and explain that they need to work together to build something that can go into a brand new 1st Grade Inclusiveness Neighborhood!

Remind students of the types of buildings and spaces that you might find in a neighborhood - houses, stores, schools, offices, apartments, parks, etc.

Students will work together and decide what structure they want to build together using their designated pile of LEGOs. At this age, do not limit them to only feasible options. Oftentimes our imaginative, impossible answers spark real-life, unconventional solutions during post-creation conversations. The only requirement is that each group must be able to explain what they created and how. They must use all of the pieces they were provided and every person must contribute to building it. No trading and no complaining; just building.

Allow 10-20 minutes for building time.

After the time is up, have each group present their building - what it is, what people do there, and why they chose to build it. Then assemble all of the creations into a 1st Grade Inclusiveness neighborhood and display it for a while.

You can use this display to spark other discussions about inclusiveness:

- What would happen to our neighborhood if we didn't have _____ building or service?
- What are some of your favorite parts about our neighborhood?
- How can we make people feel welcome when they come to visit or move here from another neighborhood (or city or state)?



DESIGNATED BY CASEL
AS A RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL
AND EMOTIONAL
LEARNING.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the [CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs](#).

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>