

Building a Respectful Community

This lesson focuses on Respect for the Community, both inside the school and beyond. Students will use Legos to build locations within the community and then explain how they can show respect within each location.

Kindness Sub-Concept(s)

Self-respect, Kindness

Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

Required Materials

- ☐ Legos (Can use clay as an alternative)
- ☐ Cups or Bowls

Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.



DESIGNATED BY CASEL
AS A RECOMMENDED PROGRAM
FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.
See last page for details.

Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Examine their community for opportunities to show respect throughout their day to day lives.
- Explain how to show respect in a variety of contexts within their local community.

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

Look for ways to show respect for the school community today. Pick up garbage, shut off a light in an empty room etc. Set the tone for students!

Tips for Diverse Learners

- Divide the class up into small groups and have them share amongst themselves to decrease anxiety about public speaking.
- Use larger Duplo blocks instead of Legos for those with dexterity struggles.
- Allow students to draw a picture or write a paragraph as an alternative to the building option.



Share

2-3 minutes

Review the definition of **respect** - *treating people, places, and things with kindness.*

See if students can recite it without help.



Inspire

Overview of Respect for Our Community/School

3 minutes

Explain that this lesson will target how we respect our community. To do this, we must first look at what respect for our community means.

Using a ball or bean bag, play a brainstorming game to get the class thinking about the community.

Instructions:

1. Each person thinks of one place in the community that they have been to this week.
2. Then, starting with the teacher, they say the location and toss the ball to another person.
3. The next person must repeat the first place and then add another place. No repeats!
4. The ball must be passed to a new person each time. Repeat until everyone has had a turn. You can write the locations on the board if desired to serve as a brainstorm for the activity below.



Empower

15 minutes

Students will use Legos to answer the question, "How can I show respect in our community?"

Instructions:

- Ask students to think about how they can show respect in their own community. Discuss some common places where children can show respect if needed. *This is where the brainstorm above will come in handy.*
- Give each student (or small groups of students if you are making this a group activity and/or have limited Legos or stacking blocks) a pile of Legos. **Note:** you can use larger legos for students that have dexterity struggles.
- Ask students to build something that represents how to show respect in the community.
 - **Ideas might include:** pick up trash at the park, make a new friend at school, put away a stray cart at the store, greet the bus driver as they board, etc.

Allow 10 minutes for creating.



Reflect

10 minutes

Have each student share their creation and justification in a group setting (can be small or large depending on the makeup of your class). After all the presentations are completed, ask the class the following questions:

- What can you do when you see disrespect in any of these locations?
- How can you show respect when talking to others about how they are treating the community?

Remind students that respecting our school and community takes teamwork and intentional decisions. If we all work together to do little things each day, our school can reflect the respect we have for ourselves and each other as well!

Extension Ideas

Organize your Lego creations by where they are located in your community. Work together as a class to create a Community Respect map with every Lego creation highlighted with a star. As a class, try to accomplish each goal. Students can report back and you can add a sticker to each location as they spread kindness and respect throughout the community!

- Using your Lego creation as a springboard, create a story about a boy/girl that shows respect in your area.
- What did things look like before they stepped up?
- How were they able to use respect to make a change?



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

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning ([CASEL](https://casel.org/)) 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](https://casel.org/guide/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/>