

Safety First!

This lesson in the Courage unit focuses on kindness within the school environment by highlighting school safety. Your class will use courage to create safety posters and inspire kindness towards the school for the remainder of the year.

Kindness Concept(s)

Courage, Kindness

Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

Required Materials

- 8 large poster boards
- Construction paper
- White Drawing paper
- Glue
- Basic Art Supplies

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:

- Identify concrete ways to treat the school with kindness through safety awareness.
- Explain how it takes courage to be kind to our school.

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

The ultimate goal of every teacher is a kind and respectful class. When the environment in which we spend 8-10 hours a day naturally responds with kindness as a default, we are able to more easily teach the academic components required of us. As you head into the final few weeks and months of the school year, the positive environment you established at the beginning might be waning a bit as students get more antsy for summer vacation. Now is the perfect time for a kindness tune up, so to speak. Although you are bogged down with end of year testing, grades, and parties, taking a few moments at the beginning of each day with some focused kindness will do wonders for your classroom environment. One idea is to write a bunch of uplifting notes on index cards and have each child choose one from a bowl during your morning meeting. Have them read their kindness card aloud as they are excused to their desks. Not only will each child be encouraged, but you may find that kindness is contagious!

Tips for Diverse Learners

- Allow students to draw a picture of how they treat the school with kindness.
- Predetermine your groups of 4-5 students based on the strengths of each student (writer, artist(s), designer, and canvasser).



Share

5 minutes

What examples of kindness have you noticed in our school? Let's review different areas:

- On the bus?
- On the playground?
- In our classroom?
- During P.E.?
- During Music or Art class?

Kindness looks different in different situations or areas, but being kind is always the right answer! Today we will focus on how to be kind to our school as a whole.



Inspire

Courageously Kind to Our School

5-7 minutes

Review the explanation of Kindness to Environment (School) presented in the first lesson of this unit.

Kindness to Environment (School): Our school is a terrific place to learn each day. Why? Because each one of us does our part to keep it safe, happy, and welcoming every day. Your courageous choice to show kindness in how you care for the school by treating our materials kindly, respecting our space, and being safe on the playground are all ways that help make our school the wonderful learning environment we have today!

Read Aloud: *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathmann

10-12 minutes

Read Aloud link: [▶ Officer Buckle and Gloria Read Aloud](#)

This story is a classic about school safety and treating your school with kindness. In addition, it includes a terrific lesson on treating others with kindness and the value of friendship.

After reading the story, discuss the concept of school safety and kindness using the following questions:

- How does Officer Buckle show kindness to the different schools he visits?
- Why is Officer Buckle so passionate about school safety?
- How does Gloria help Officer Buckle?
- What happens when Officer Buckle stops giving his safety talks?



Empower

20 minutes

Explain that the class will create safety posters and hang them throughout the school. The class will be divided into 8 groups to create a poster for a specific area (you will make 2 different posters for each of the following areas):

- Hallways
- Playground
- Classroom
- Bus

As a class, review each area listed and brainstorm ideas on useful safety tips for that area. Examples: Use walking feet in the hallways, keep our voices quiet when we walk through the halls, etc. Each group needs the following members:

- **Writer:** Uses words to write the safety tip on a piece of paper. (Encourage LARGE writing)
- **Artists (2):** Each draw a picture on colored construction paper to illustrate the safety tip.
- **Designer:** Decides on the layout of the poster using the words and illustrations, gluing them down onto large poster board.
- **Canvasser:** Selects the location where the poster where be displayed in the school.

Prior to writing, have each group dictate their safety rule to the teacher as he/she writes it down. This will help with correct spelling and punctuation. Once all 8 groups are finished, take a walk throughout the schools and have the canvassers hang each poster to inspire school safety!



Reflect

5-7 minutes

It takes courage to start something new and invite others to join you. Our safety posters encourage students and adults to treat our school kindly, no matter where they are in the building. We were able to use courage to bring up the topic of safety and be willing to talk about it with others. Now we must use courage to follow through with our dedication to school safety by bringing kindness to our school each and every day!



Extension Ideas

- Extend your safety awareness to an entire school wide “Safety Week”. Invite the other classes to help you increase the safety awareness in your school. Each grade could be responsible for ensuring safety for a specific area (1st grade: hallways, 2nd grade: playground, etc.). The principal could even add safety to the end of the school year assembly!



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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/>