

The Ripples of Respect and Kindness

This project is designed to share with the school community what students have been learning and practicing in regard to respect, listening, communication, and teamwork.

Respect Sub-Concept(s)

Self-care, Kindness

Project Timeframe

25-30 minutes

Required Materials

- Bulletin Board materials
- Colored markers

Teachers prepare students for the lesson by reminding them about all the lessons they have gone through in the Respect Unit and how the choices they make to respect and be kind to ourselves, to each other, and to our surrounding classroom environment create a ripple effect that impacts everything around us. It is important that we are not only making kind and respectful choices ourselves, but that we are also looking for others who make kind and respectful choices. This project will give us the opportunity to look for and celebrate others who make kind and respectful choices regarding listening, communication, and teamwork!

Project Details:

Set up a bulletin board outside of the classroom that looks like a round pond or lake. In the center of the lake, draw a blue dot or put a small circle cut-out. Have markers hanging on the board or located by the board in some way: gold (or yellow/orange) for respectful listening; blue for respectful communication; green for respectful teamwork.

Each time a student observes someone in their school engaging in respectful and kind listening, communication, or teamwork, he/she can draw a ripple with the applicable color around the blue dot. Each ripple is a specific color that represents the observed act of kindness and respect.

It would be useful to have a brief explanation of the board and why second graders are “on the lookout” for these specific acts of respect and kindness. You should also explain the “ripple effect” that respect and kindness has, and that this board represents the ripples of respect that you are looking for in your school!

Extensions:

- Set a goal for how many ripples the pond should have by the end of the month and see if the class can reach it.
- You might make a “pond” board for each area of respect (instead of a single pond) and the class would track patterns for which area of respect/kindness is greatest and which area needs more attention. (This would make it easier to compare the ripples in multiple ponds versus all of the ripples in a single pond.)
- Have students help the teacher write a “blurb” about the bulletin board that can go on the school website, in a school newsletter, or a school announcement. A group of second graders may even deliver the announcement themselves if announcements are given over a loudspeaker system! Let the whole school know what the bulletin boards are for and that the second grade class will be watching!
- You may also invite other teachers and classes to participate and put the boards in the school lobby or lunch room so many people can participate. Set school-wide goals for recording respect and kindness! If older kids/teachers are involved, students can write the name of the person they observed engaging in respectful, kind behavior and write down what they did.



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AS A RECOMMENDED
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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.

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