

## **Character Education**

### **“Positive Attitude” Grades K-4**

#### **DEFINITION:**

A positive attitude is the ability to have positive thoughts about one's self and one's environment even when things are not going as one would hope.

#### **STUDENT ACTIVITIES:**

- Help students understand that they have a choice on how they respond to events in their day-to-day lives. The outcome is a result of their choices.
- Define positive attitude. Consider it as it relates to school work, classmates, teamwork, cooperation, and enthusiasm.
- Have students' research historical figures that displayed this trait. Ask students to share briefly about this person.
- Ask students to draw and/or create a collage that demonstrates cooperation in everyday life.
- Have students role-play situations in which a student might need a positive attitude to cope with a particular situation.
- Use bibliotherapy that focuses on positive attitude, teamwork, and cooperation such as *Teammates*, *Mr. Peabody's Apples*, or *How to Lose Your Friends*. Talk with the campus librarian for reading suggestions.
- Use video clips that demonstrate positive attitude, teamwork, cooperation, and enthusiasm.
- Create a classroom banner to hang in the classroom or school that demonstrates positive attitude, teamwork, cooperation, enthusiasm. Add students' names when they demonstrate the character trait.
- Ask students to bring examples of songs that focus on teamwork and cooperation such as "This is the way we wash our clothes..." or "Row, row, and row your boat..." (See "Children's Music" section in the campus library.)
- Provide science and math group activities that teach team building and allow opportunities for students to learn how to cooperate and problem solve with one another.
- Invite guest speakers into the classroom that demonstrate positive attitude, teamwork, cooperation, and enthusiasm.

- Have students journal the definition of cooperation and positive attitude with definitions and applications with examples from their personal lives.
- Discuss athletes who demonstrate positive attitude, teamwork, and cooperation. How can everyone associated with the team demonstrate a positive attitude? Parents? Coaches? Team members?
- Have students brainstorm a list of everyday situations that require a positive attitude. Explain that a positive attitude to life's circumstances is something everyone can decide to have or create for oneself.
- Make pop-up books featuring people (or animal characters) that show a positive attitude, teamwork, and cooperation.
- Divide students into groups. Using games for the activity, talk about the need for a positive attitude regardless of whether one is winning or losing. What can be learned by not always winning?
- Make a list of people in the school who display positive attitude, teamwork, and cooperation. Give examples of their behaviors.
- Make a list of events in students' everyday lives that require a positive attitude such as chores, siblings, homework, etc. Ask students to select one and write about ways to maintain a positive attitude.
- Ask students to bring in current events from the newspaper about people or situations that demonstrate positive attitude, teamwork, and cooperation.
- Discuss the importance of students maintaining a positive attitude about the next school year. Talk about concerns and help students list positive expectations. What new skills (social, emotional, academic) have they learned in the current year that will assist them in the next grade?

#### **RESOURCES:**

[www.gamesforgroups.com](http://www.gamesforgroups.com) (Book/game store)

[www.pecentral.com](http://www.pecentral.com) (Activity site)

[www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/](http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/) (sponsored by United Nations)