

It's Your Community!

Month: Jan.

Week #: 17

Day: c. Wed. Time: 30 minutes

Rate Our Community

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: evaluate the quality of their own classroom community relative to Peck's four essential foundational building blocks of a successful community.

Materials

white board and colored markers

Illustration

So how does our community rate? Are we kind? Do we help other people? Are we patient with others? Do we smile a lot?



How does our community rate?

- 9 **inclusive**
- 8 **responsive**
- 5 **contemplative**
- 6 **safe**

Background

In his book, *The Road Less Traveled*, M. Scott Peck lists the four essential foundational building blocks of a joyful, functional and effective community:

Inclusive - each member is recognized, accepted, and embraced

Responsive - the community meets individual needs

Contemplative - the group continually examines and monitors progress

Safe - each member feels secure and protected

*Lesson
Community -
Fundamental
9/30/00*

Group Activity

1. Say, "Yesterday, we learned the characteristics of both a bad and good community. Today we're going to rate our own classroom community to see if it's already good, or if it needs some improvement." Point to the list on the board. "These are the foundational building blocks of a joyful, functional and effective community: inclusive, responsive, contemplative and safe. (Make sure the students understand what each of the terms mean.) On a scale of 1 -10, we'll rate each building block with 1 being lousy, 5 being fair and 10 being excellent. We'll discuss each building block first with people sharing their opinions on how they think we're doing. Try to think of specific examples to support your opinion. For example, you might think our classroom rates a 9 on being responsive, because you saw Mary go out of her way to help Cindy find her lost lunch box. And yes, it's okay to say somebody's name when you're reporting a positive incident. If it's a negative incident, it's better not to say the person's name and instead use a general term or pronoun. For example, you would rate our classroom a 2 on safety because you've seen some bigger boys picking on smaller ones." Go through and rate each building block on the list.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Which are the building blocks that we did really well on, that scored 7 or above?

A: Circle with a green marker the attributes with a score of 7 and above. Say, "I think you can really congratulate yourselves on doing an excellent job on these building blocks. After all, it's all of you that made this possible. Reach over and gently pat your friend to your right and say, "Good job!"

Group Discussion Questions (continued)

2. Which are the building blocks that we did fairly well on, that scored between 4 and 6?

A: Circle with a blue marker the attributes with a score of 4, 5, 6. Say, "We did a fairly good job on these, but there is still room for improvement."

3. Which are the building blocks that we did a lousy job on, that scored 3 or below?

A: Circle with a red marker the attributes with a score of 3 or below. Either say, "Good job! We don't have any of these that scored 3 or below. This means that, for the most part, you truly care and respect each other!" Or say, "It's really sad that we scored so badly on these building blocks. But take heart! The past does not equal the future. We can make working on these building blocks top priority in our classroom and make some real changes for the better!"

Variations/Extensions

Conclusion

For the conclusion, summarize the results of the rating of the classroom community ratings. Congratulate the students for the areas in which they did well and challenge and encourage the students for the areas in which they need to improve. Tell them that tomorrow you'll all work together to formulate some strategies to address those areas in which the classroom needs to improve.



*Laura
Borucki
9/30/04*

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community rate?

- 9 inclusive
- 8 responsive
- 5 contemplative
- 6 safe

**So how does our community rate? Are we kind?
Do we help other people? Are we patient with others? Do we smile a lot?**