

Climb the Mountain of Learning

Month: Oct.

Week #: 9

Day: b. Tues. Time: 30 minutes

Working with Others

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: learn that by cooperating, collaborating and helping others, we can not only benefit the classroom community as a whole, but help ourselves as well.

Materials

rope or hose (if you decide not to use students to make the mountain)

Illustration

Wow, this boy is moving quickly up the Mountain of Learning, but where are his friends? Did he leave them behind by not bothering to help them? Is he really a good friend?



Background

Learning to work well with others is an important social skill for both the classroom community and in the larger society as well. At times, a student can become so myopic about his own work that he forgets about his responsibility of helping others. In fact, by working together with others, one can make faster progress in both the quantity of work done and the depth of the actual learning.

Group Activity

1. Directions for play set up:

- Setting: Arrange all but three of the students sitting into the shape of a mountain. Or you can take a long rope or hose and make an outline of the mountain on the floor. Have the three actors at the base of the mountain at stage left.

- Actors:

Tim - is not interested in working with others; is too busy to help others; begins play by lying down, asleep at the base of the mountain

Sally - always likes to work with others and help them as well; begins play by lying down, asleep at the base of the mountain

Hank - sometimes he likes to work by himself and sometimes likes to work with others; is very willing to help others; begins play by lying down, asleep at the base of the mountain

Note: You can choose any names for the actors, just not one of the student's names. You now can choose less experienced/younger actors since they got to observe the previous day's play. Instruct the actors that they will be 'people puppets,' meaning you will give them the words to say and tell them what to do. Tell them to try and copy the inflections in your voice. Encourage older, experienced actors to ad-lib, but to stay within the context of the story. Remind the actors that they are portraying fictitious (pretend) people, and that the actions of the characters in no way reflect upon who they really are.

2. The play:

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Ad-lib a play similar to the original “Climb the Mountain of Learning;”, this time, however make several distinct variations:

- Have Tim work alone as he travels up the mountain. Whenever he needs help, he sits and waits for the teacher or struggles until he gets frustrated. Whenever Sally or Hank offers to help, or work with him, he always declines. Because he always works alone and refuses help, his progress is not as fast as the other students.
- Have Sally and Hank work together as they travel up the mountain. Sometimes Sally helps Hank and sometimes Hank helps Sally. Often times they will work together to solve a problem. Because of this interdependent relationship, they make faster progress than Tim.
- At some point, have Hank choose to work alone because he really needs to focus. Have Sally become upset that Hank is not working with her.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Who made the fastest progress up the Mountain of Learning and why?
A: Sally and Hank did, because they helped each other and worked together to solve problems.
2. Incidentally, is it okay for a boy and girl to work together as friends?
A: Yes, this friendship is a form of brotherly love, not romantic love.
3. Should you always work with someone else? Was Sally right to get upset at Hank?
A: No, it's also okay to work by yourself. Some people will work a lot with others, others will often work by themselves and some will be like Hank who does a bit of both. The point is, it's important to help others and to accept help when you need it. It will also depend on the kind of work you are doing. Some works, like those in the cultural areas, are easier and more fun if you work with one or two friends.

Variations/Extensions

Conclusion

Say, “Working together and helping others can make you both a better student and person.”

Oct. 9 b. Tues.

Climb the Mountain of Learning: Working with Others



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Did he leave them behind by not bothering to help them?
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