

Lesson: Lifelong Guideline Lesson – No Put Downs

Subject Area: Back to School

Common Core Standards Covered:

Supplies Needed:

- Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
- 2'x2' yellow smiley face (made from butcher paper)
- Scotch tape

Procedure:

- Gather the class in your listening area. (We like to call it a family room in my class!) Display the yellow smiley face next to you somehow.
- Introduce the students to the book and ask if anyone has ever read it before. If someone has read it, ask them to tell the class a little about what happens in the story. If not, give the students a quick summary.
- Tell the class that one of the expectations in your classroom is that everyone will be respectful towards classmates and adults. Part of that expectation is that no one should give put downs.
- Discuss what a put down is – making fun of another or making another feel sad about himself/herself.
- Tell the class to listen to the story as you read it aloud and to show you with a “thumbs down” each time a put down is given in the story.
- Begin the story. Each time the students hear a put down and show you a thumbs down, choose one student to come up and tear a part of the smiley face off. (Guide them to only tear a section about the size of their hand or a little bigger.)
- Continue to read the story and have students tear pieces off of the smiley face.
- After the story discuss what the smiley face looks like and why.
- Ask students what they should do if they've accidentally given another student a put down. As they each give an example

(apologize, give a put up, give a hug, create a smile), have a student who did not get to tear a piece of the smiley face, try to tape a piece of the smiley back where it belongs. (This does not need to be exact, but they do need to try to recreate the eyes and the smile on the smiley face.)

- Once all the pieces have been taped back onto the smiley face, lead a discussion about how it's been put back together and repaired, but that it will never quite be the same. Tell them they need to think carefully before giving any put downs because, even if they try to make it better (through the suggestions they gave earlier), the person they gave the put down to might not ever quite be the same again because of what they chose to say.
- Display the smiley face somewhere in your room as a reminder of what put downs can do and of your classroom expectation of No Put Downs.
- Follow Up Writing Activity – Have students write and/or draw a picture about a time they were given a put down and how it made them feel.

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