



Class Mascot

Upper Elementary Lesson Plan

Values:

Values are the beliefs that are important to you and help you decide what is right or wrong. They are standards for how you want to act and how you want to treat other people. Values help guide your choices and demonstrate what kind of person you are.

Objectives:

- Students will collaborate with peers to determine values that are important to the class.
- Students will help create a class mascot as a fun way to explore Values.

Materials:

Values Prediscussion Resource (provided), an animal Beanie Baby or other small stuffed animal that will serve as your class mascot all year, pencils and paper, heart-shaped tag.

Activity Steps:

- Share the definition above and the Values Prediscussion Resource with your students. Have students brainstorm and record values that they want to represent their class. What do they believe is important? How should students act and treat each other in your classroom?
- Show the mascot to the class, Have each student write down a suggested name for the mascot and an explanation of why the name would be a good choice. Collect the ideas and have students vote. Encourage students to pick a name that represents the values of their class.
- Pick a birthday for the mascot.
- Beanie Babies have heart shaped tags that contain a short poem about the stuffed animal. Show the class some online pictures of Beanie Baby tags or bring one to show if you have any. Work together as a class to create a poem for the new class mascot and write it on a heart tag. The poem should represent what the class values. Refer to the students' lists of values they brainstormed for ideas to include in the poem.



- Invite students to write letters to the new mascot welcoming them to the class. Students should include important information about what values are important to the class. You may need to review the definition of values and give some examples to help students get started.
- Have students read their letters out loud while they hold the class mascot. Encourage students to be active listeners and ask questions.
- Once everyone has presented, take a class picture with your new mascot.
- Include the mascot in classroom activities such as sitting on the carpet during read-alouds, learning games, lunchtime, etc. Have the mascot join you as an important member of your classroom community and incorporate it as an opportunity to continually revisit the class values.
- Each week give students an opportunity to tell the mascot about important things they are learning.
- Include the mascot when role playing appropriate social skills.
- Give students opportunities to read books to the mascot.

Personal Reflection:

Have students reflect on why it is important to share the things you care about and value with others. Why is it important to listen to others tell you about the things they care about and value?

Group Discussion:

How did this activity help us learn about what we believe and value as a class? If our class mascot magically came to life, what actions could they take to show that they share our class values?

Extended Learning:

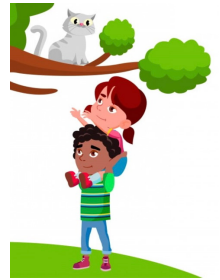
Continue to use your class mascot to remind students of your shared class values and actions they can take to demonstrate those values.

Notes:

Class Mascot

Values Prediscussion Resource

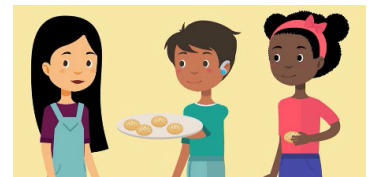
Compassion is being kind and caring toward others. It means understanding how someone else feels and wanting to help them when they are upset or need support.



Courage is being brave enough to do what's right, even when it's hard or scary. It means standing up for yourself and others and making good choices, even if you're unsure or nervous.

Creativity means thinking in new and different ways. When you are creative, you make something that is unique and shows your own personality and imagination.

Fairness means treating everyone the same, no matter who they are. When we are fair, we make sure no one is left out or treated unfairly.



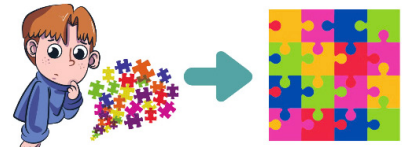
Gratitude is appreciating what you have, whether it's family, friends, or even the little things that make you happy. When you show gratitude, you focus on the positive and feel thankful every day.

Honesty means telling the truth and being sincere. When you are honest, people can trust you, and you feel good about being true to yourself.



Love is caring a lot about other people and wanting the best for them. It's about showing kindness, helping others, and making them feel special.

Patience is being able to wait calmly for something, even if it takes a long time. It means not getting upset or frustrated when things don't happen right away.



Perseverance is continuing to work hard and not giving up, even when things are tough or challenging. It means staying focused and trying your best, even when it feels difficult.

Respect is treating others with kindness and care. It means listening to people, being polite, and valuing their feelings and opinions.



Responsibility means being in charge of your actions and choices. When you're responsible, you make sure you take care of your tasks and are honest about what you do.

Self-Respect is believing in yourself and treating yourself with kindness. When you have self-respect, you take care of yourself and make choices that show you care about your own well-being.

Trust means keeping your promises and being honest, so people know they can depend on you. When you earn trust, others feel safe and comfortable around you.

