

# Building a Respectful Community

This lesson focuses on Respect for the Community, both inside the school and beyond. Students will use Legos to build locations within the community and then explain how they can show respect within each location.

## Respect Sub-Concept(s)

Self-care, Kindness

## Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

## Required Materials

- What if Everybody Did That?* by Ellen Javernick
- Legos (Can use clay as an alternative)
- Cups or Bowls

## Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.



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See last page for details.

## Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Examine their community for opportunities to show respect throughout their day to day lives.
- Explain how to show respect in a variety of contexts within their local community.

## Teacher Connection/Self-Care

Respect for your community is a natural result when one possesses self-respect and respect for others. This is the third piece of the puzzle under the heading of respect. How do you demonstrate respect within your school and your community? Getting involved in organized opportunities allows you to give back in a structured, concrete way. However, don't overlook the daily random acts of kindness that you have access to within the school and your town. Simple tasks such as cleaning up the campus or turning off unused lights in your home to decrease electricity usage are also valid ways to respect your community. Stay alert to the opportunities presented to you. This will in turn help you pass this practice down to your students.

## Tips for Diverse Learners

- Divide the class up into small groups and have them share amongst themselves to decrease anxiety about public speaking.
- Use larger Duplo blocks instead of Legos for those with dexterity struggles.
- Allow students to draw a picture or write a paragraph as an alternative to the building option.



## Share

2-3 minutes

Using a ball or bean bag, play a brainstorming game to get the class thinking about the community.

Starting with the teacher, each person names one place in the community that they have been to this week.

They say the location and toss the ball to another person. The next person must repeat the first place and then add another place.

No repeats!

The ball must be passed to a new person each time.

Repeat until everyone has had a turn.

You can write the locations on the board if desired to serve as a brainstorm for the activity below.

*Respecting our School Community takes teamwork and intentional decisions. If we all work together to do little things each day, our school can reflect the respect we have for ourselves and each other as well!*



## Inspire

### **Overview of Respect for Our Community/School**

3 minutes

Explain that this lesson will target how we respect our community. Our class will work towards highlighting areas in our community that allow us opportunities to show respect, even outside of our classroom. To do this, we must first look at what respect for our community means. Using the script from Lesson 1, review the information you have already covered.

### **Read Aloud: *What if Everybody did that?* by Ellen Javernick**

10 minutes

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvH5XsNDZw4>

After reading the book, guide a discussion on the missed opportunities the main character had for showing respect in his community.

- *How could he have shown respect in the grocery store?*
- *How could he have shown respect at the zoo?*
- *How could he have shown respect while waiting in the car?*



## Empower

15 minutes

Students will use Legos to answer the question, “How can I show respect in our community?”

- Using the questions from the story, students will think about how they can show respect in their own community.
- Provide each student with a bowl/cup of Legos. Note: you can use larger legos for students that have dexterity struggles.
- Discuss some common places where children can show respect if needed. Many students will make the connection back to the book. Examples include the grocery store, the park, the gas station, the zoo, the bus stop, their home, the school, etc.
- Remind them that they must be able to answer the question, “HOW can I show respect in our community?”
  - Ideas might include: pick up trash at the park, make a new friend at school, put away a stray cart at the store, greet the bus driver as they board, etc.
- Allow 10 minutes for creating. Circulate and discuss the creations with students as time allows



## Reflect

10 minutes

Have each student share their creation and justification in a group setting (can be small or large depending on the makeup of your class).

After all the presentations are completed, ask the class the following questions:

- *What can you do when you see disrespect in any of these locations?*
- *How can you show respect when talking to others about how they are treating the community?*



## Extension Ideas

- Organize your Lego creations by where they are located in your community. Work together as a class to create a Community Respect map with every Lego creation highlighted with a star. As a class, try to accomplish each goal. Students can report back and you can add a sticker to each location as they spread kindness and respect throughout the community!

RAK Notebook Questions (See RAK Notebook Project in this unit for more details):

- Using your Lego creation as a springboard, create a story about a boy/girl that shows respect in your area.
- What did things look like before they stepped up?
- How were they able to use respect to make a change?



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LEARNING.

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Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>