



CHARACTER BUILDING ACTIVITIES

THE SLY FOX AND THE CHICKS

Story Description

Mama and Papa have always told their chicks never to have anything to do with strangers. But the sly fox disguises himself as a little lamb, and tries to trick the chicks into going with him. His early attempts fail because Clucky listens to Papa and Mama.

The fox finally succeeds by promising delicious corn to lure some of the chicks. After a horrifying experience, Clucky's sister Wendy escapes and realizes the importance of always listening to her parents and never talking to strangers.

To help protect our children from unscrupulous strangers in today's society, Carl Sommer teaches the importance of trust, safety, and obedience to parents.



Major Objective

To define and present the following virtues so they can be integrated into the life of each student:

- Trust: having confidence in the honesty, friendship, and wisdom of another person
- Safety: the conditions of being safe; free from danger, hurt, injury, or loss
- Obedience to Parents: performing the desires of parents



Story Time Interaction

Read the story, **Sly Fox and the Chicks**, and then write the three virtues on the board: trust, safety, and obedience to parents. Define and discuss these virtues.

Ask the students to describe Sly Old Fox, Papa Rooster, Mama Hen, Wendy, Clucky, other two chicks, and Gruffy.

Activities

Objectives: To use the following activities to help reinforce the virtues of trust, safety, and obedience to parents. To help students realize that there are strangers who want to harm them.

Safety at Home and Outdoors

Goal: To teach children to take responsibility for their own safety at home and in the outdoors.

Discussion: There are many things in children's lives that are unsafe: things in school, home, street, travelling, etc. Ask the students to name some things that are unsafe. Let them give personal examples of children hurt by accidents. Examples:

Running in the street

No looking both ways when crossing the street

Playing with fire

Gas stove on without a flame

Climbing in trees

Mishandling a knife

Starting a car

Standing near someone swinging a bat

Tripping or shoving someone when playing basketball

Safety at School

Goal: To help children learn that school safety is important both for themselves and others

Assign students to committees to make safety rules for classroom behavior, moving through the school building, playing on the school grounds, and eating in the cafeteria. Bring the students together to form a unified safety code.

Safety—Wearing Proper Clothing

Goal: To make children aware of the dangers of not wearing proper clothing

Preparation: Collect pictures and articles to show students what happens when proper safety procedures are not followed.

Class Discussion: Discuss the importance of wearing proper clothing. Some children want to look cool by not wearing proper clothing. Discuss the dangers of:

1. Not wearing proper clothing in winter: gloves, hats, jackets, sweaters, etc.
2. Sun burn and sun stroke. Getting excessive sun can cause cancer later on in life.
3. Sport injuries: not wearing protective gear as helmets when bike riding or playing football, protective uniforms, kneepads, etc.

Safety—Taking Care of One's Body

Goal: To make children aware that they must be concerned for the health of their body

Class Discussion: What are some things that children can do that

harm their body?

List their suggestions on the board and then discuss them with the class. Bring up subjects as smoking, drinking, eating improperly, taking drugs or pills other than for health reasons, sniffing glue or other harmful substances, etc.

Have a lesson on eating properly.

Safety—Strangers

Goal: To make children aware that there are some people who want to harm them. In the back of *Sly Fox and the Chicks* are notes about the dangers of talking with strangers. Use these facts to speak to the students. Stress that one of the best actions for children to take is to always listen to their parents.

Safety—People Working to Keep Us Safe and Healthy

Goal: To help students appreciate the services of those who aim to keep us safe and healthy. Discuss with students the importance of each of the various fields.

Ask students to list those who work for public safety: firefighters, police workers, building inspectors, school guards, etc.

Ask students to list those who work to help people become healthy: doctors, nurses, food inspectors, restaurant inspectors, etc.

Ask students to tell how teachers help students to be safe and healthy.

Learning to trust those in authority and being obedient may save a student's life. Those in authority often recognize dangers that are hidden from children. Children must learn to trust and obey those in authority.

Trusting Parents

Goal: To help students realize that the rules their parents give them are meant to protect them

Teach children the importance of trusting parents. Stress how many problems children would avoid in life if they would just listen and trust their parents.

Ask children to list some of the advice that their parents give them.

Why is it important to obey your parents?

Your parents are always concerned for your safety and want the very best for you. The instruction they give is based on their concern for your well being. Children need to learn to trust their parents.

Learning to be Thankful

Art Project—Thank-You Cards

Have children make thank-you cards for their parents. Have them list things that they are thankful for. First discuss the subject in the classroom. This will give children ideas to write in their cards.

Encourage the children to give each of their parents a great big hug when they give them the card. The next day have the children share the reaction of their parents when they received their cards.

Encourage children to express thanks often to their parents.

Class Visits or Field Trips

1. Have a nurse, doctor, dentist or someone from the fire department or police department visit the class and talk about safety.
2. Take a field trip to a fire department or police station.

Tying It All Together

Safety is an important topic. There are things that are unpleasant to speak about, but for the safety of our children, we must. Stress that one of the best pieces of advice for safety is to listen and trust one's parents.