



CHARACTER BUILDING ACTIVITIES

SOMMER-TIME STORIES

THE LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD



Story Description

Little Red Riding Hood is a kind-hearted girl on her way to help her sick grandmother. Her mother warns her not to speak to strangers and to stay on the path as she travels through the forest, but a smooth-talking wolf makes Little Red Riding Hood forget her promise. While Little Red Riding Hood gathers flowers for her grandmother, the wolf uses her delay to devour the grandmother and set a trap for Little Red Riding Hood.

A passing hunter notices something amiss at grandmother's house, and his quick action saves both Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother. In this retelling of the Brothers Grimm classic fable, children gain a new understanding of why it's important to listen to parents and to be wary of friendly strangers.

Major Objective

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

- Caring: being concerned about the safety and prosperity of another person or thing
- Obedience to Parents: performing the desire of parents
- Safety: the condition of being safe; free from danger, hurt, injury, or loss

Story Time Interaction

Read the story, *Little Red Riding Hood*, and then write these three character traits on the interactive whiteboard: caring, obedience to parents, and safety. Define and discuss these character traits.

Discuss the characters:

Little Red Riding Hood	The Wolf
Grandma	Mama
	The Hunter

Activity Objectives

To use the following activities to reinforce the character traits of caring, obedience to parents, and safety. To guide students to consider the importance of appreciation, kindness, listening, respect for parents, responsibility, self-discipline, and trust.

What's the Secret Sound?

Explain to students that it is important to really listen to our parents and other adults. Little Red Riding Hood listened to her mother, but she didn't take it to heart and think about what her mother had said. That is why she forgot what her mother had warned her about. To demonstrate the importance of listening, bring in 10-20 objects that make distinctive sounds when dropped on the floor. Show students the objects; then students place their heads down on their desks in their arms so that they cannot see. Drop the objects one by one on the floor or a solid surface. Allow students to guess after each drop what the object was. Remind them to listen carefully! Here are some objects to use: a heavy book, a pencil, a paper clip, a ping pong ball, a necklace, a can, a bell, a small package of crackers or chips, a towel, a plastic egg, a paper cup, a bottle of vitamins or candy, some water, some crystals such as dishwasher detergent, salt, or sugar, a bar of soap, a box of macaroni and cheese, cereal pouring, a metal spoon, a plastic cup, and a rubber ball. Make sure each student gets a chance to guess. Bring in more objects if desired. Afterwards, ask students why they needed to listen carefully. Remind them that life is like that, too. It is always important to listen.

Listen or I'll Get Wet!

To demonstrate the importance of listening and obeying instructions, have two children do the following activity. (Everyone who wants to can do it, but it is best if only two do it at a time). Any students who don't want to get wet can use a large plastic garbage bag to cover their laps. Also, have a towel handy to help wipe up excess water. One child sits in a chair holding an empty cup. It is his job to give instructions to the other student on how to pour a pitcher of water into the cup on his lap. The trick is that the child pouring the water is blindfolded. (Make sure that the pitcher is only partially full). Have the seated child direct the blindfolded child over to his location and then proceed to instruct him on where to hold the pitcher before he begins pouring. They are allowed to speak to one another, and when the water has been poured, they can switch places. It is also a good lesson on communication. Afterwards discuss how important it was to listen and follow instructions.

A Police Officer Speaks about Stranger Danger

First discuss why it is important to obey parents and other adults. Emphasize that parents are trying to teach children important lessons that will protect them and help them throughout life. Discuss the fact that children can trust teachers and other adults whom their parents know, but children should never go with someone they don't know (a stranger) unless a parent tells them to do so. We cannot tell if strangers are good by looking at them. We need to get to know them through a trusted adult and then we will know if they are good or bad. Explain that there are a few adults who pretend to be nice, but will harm a child if given the opportunity. Also, remind them to always tell a trusted adult if someone makes them feel uncomfortable or touches them inappropriately. Read additional books on this subject matter. Finally, invite a police officer to talk about stranger danger. Students will really pay attention to a police officer and what he or she has to say.

How Well Did You Listen?

Remind students that it is important to learn to listen and listen well. Little Red Riding Hood listened, but she did not listen well. She heard what her mom said, but didn't remember it later. Students will practice listening to each other. Have students work in pairs. Students will take turns telling another student what activity they like to do or their favorite place and describe it. Then students will share orally with the class about their partner's favorite activity or place. The partner can tell if the other student left out any important information.

Firm and Runny Jello

Prepare a bowl or mold of jello ready to eat and a bowl of jello that is runny. Ask who likes jello. Explain that the jello is in the mold or bowl because it needs the sides of the mold or bowl to keep it within the boundaries until it is ready to stand on its own. If someone takes away the boundaries from the jello before it is ready to be on its own without boundaries, the jello will run all over. Show two molds or bowls with jello—one is firm and ready to come out, but the other will run all over because it isn't ready to be out on its own. We are like that, too. We need to obey boundaries or rules until we are old enough to stand or live on our own. When we can live without the boundaries or rules, we will get to work on time on our own without our parents telling us to; we treat others kindly because it is the right thing to do; we pay our bills on time; we exercise and eat healthy, etc. When people are ready and old enough, they do these things because they are right to do, not because of their parents' rules.

Some Things Are Not As They Appear

Do the following experiment to show that we cannot always decide things by the way they look. Put a penny in the bottom of a clear glass that is half full. Set a penny next to the glass. Have students look at both pennies from the top and note whether they look the same or different. Although the pennies are the same size, the one in the water will look bigger.

Optical Illusions

To reinforce that strangers may act nice, but not be trustworthy, draw two arrows on the interactive whiteboard. One like this: $>-----<$ and one like this: $<----->$ It is helpful to make the arrows larger than this picture and to make the lines solid rather than dotted. When this is done, the line and arrows on the left will look longer. Give students the opportunity to measure the lines to prove that they are the same length. It is an optical illusion. You may also want to display other optical illusions that can be downloaded from the internet. Explain that in an optical illusion, a picture appears one way, but in reality is another way. People can be this way too—seem to be nice, but actually evil.

Role Play

Have two students act out a role play of a stranger and a child. The stranger is in a car and tries to lure the child with candy or a toy. Then conduct another role play in which a stranger drives up and says that one of the child's parents has been in an accident and the child needs to go with the stranger. Discuss these situations and emphasize the importance of never going with a stranger no matter what he might say.

Tying It All Together

Remember, you cannot even begin to obey if you do not first listen! Listen well, think about what adults tell you, and then do what they say. Listening and obeying will help you be successful and save you from a lot of misery. Parents and teachers have rules or boundaries in place to help you, not to hurt you or to be mean. Finally, always obey stranger/danger rules and remember that appearances can be deceiving. Just because someone appears nice, does not mean that he really is.