

Girls-class-04072020

Social awareness ...

Social awareness

The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures. ability to understand social and ethical norms for behavior and to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports.

- Perspective-taking
- Empathy
- Appreciating diversity
- Respect for others

Empathy Students to put themselves in someone else's shoes

Video: <https://youtu.be/1Evwgu369Jw>



While many teachers are passionate about fostering empathy and kindness in their classrooms, they don't always have the time or resources to make it happen. Recognizing this critical need, [Empatico](#) and Participate are thrilled to announce the **Empatico Fellows Program**.

In the meantime, here are five Empatico activities to spark empathy and kindness in the classroom:

1. ACTIVE LISTENING, TAKING TURNS AND RESPONDING POSITIVELY



Actively listening and communicating respectfully can help students have meaningful experiences with others and deepen learning. Try posting the following list of sentence starters in your classroom and encourage students to use them to respond to classmates.

<p>Paraphrasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think you're saying that... • In other words, you believe/think that... 	<p>Giving your opinion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe/think/feel that... • From my perspective...
<p>Checking for understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you explain _____ again? • What did you mean when you said _____? 	<p>Agreeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I agree with ____ because... • I want to add to what you said...
<p>Disagreeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I understand your point of view, but I respectfully disagree because... • I'm not sure about _____, can you tell me why you think that? 	<p>Showing empathy and understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see why you feel/think that way because... • I hear what you're saying, can you tell me more?

2. MODEL RESPECTFUL CONVERSATIONS

Model respectful communication for your class by having a practice conversation with a student (e.g. ask what the student did last weekend) and thinking aloud as you demonstrate the steps of respectful communication:

- Be attentive and respectful of the person speaking. For example, in Western cultures, making eye contact and turning towards the speaker indicates respect and consideration.
- Focus on what the person is saying (don't think about other things).
- Show interest in what you're hearing by using nonverbal cues, such as nodding or facial reactions.

Repeat with another student, but this time show what poor communication looks like by avoiding eye contact, looking bored, interrupting, etc. The comparison will demonstrate for your students exactly what respectful communication does and does not look like.



3. RECOGNIZING AND RELATING TO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

The ability to understand another person’s perspective is beneficial for all social interactions and relationships. While reading a story/book, try choosing one character in the story and help students understand how this character feels or thinks during specific situations. Ask questions like:

- What is life like for that person?
- What might be influencing how they perceive this situation?
- How can I relate to their experience to begin to understand how they feel?

Show how characters can have different perspectives based on having different knowledge, preferences, experiences or culture than others. You could also ask students how the story might have been told differently if communicated through another character’s point of view (e.g. “[The True Story of the Three Little Pigs](#)”).

4. COOPERATING TO ACHIEVE A COMMON GOAL

Cooperation is a foundational life skill for students as they learn to navigate relationships in the classroom, at home and eventually, in the workplace. When students cooperate to achieve shared goals, they must consider each other’s perspectives and experiences as they take on unique roles.

Promote a “better together” mindset in your classroom by reading a story that emphasizes teamwork and how it’s better to cooperate than to compete with one other (e.g., “[The Fighting Mynahs](#)”). Lead a class discussion to help students link the cooperation concept to their personal experiences.

5. THINKING CRITICALLY AND INVESTIGATING NEW IDEAS WITH AN OPEN AND CURIOUS MIND

Critical thinking skills can deepen students’ academic learning and are beneficial for successful interactions and relationships. These include supporting perspective-taking and conflict-resolution skills. Read a story that involves characters making assumptions based on limited information (e.g., “[Fish is Fish](#)” or “[Seven Blind Mice](#)”). To promote critical thinking, pause periodically while reading the story to ask students a few questions relevant to the critical thinking topics below:

Understanding character intentions:

- Why do you think the character did _____? Are there other explanations for this?



- Why do you think the character assumed ____?
- What was influencing the character when he or she decided to _____?

Making predictions:

- Based on what you know about the character, what might he or she do next? Why do you think that?
- Encouraging investigation:
- What could the character do to investigate whether his/her assumptions are true or not?

Diverse backgrounds and cultures What do we mean by Culture?

Culture: is a word for the 'way of life' of groups of people, meaning the way they **do** things. ... Excellence of taste in the fine arts and humanities, also known as high **culture**. An integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior. The outlook, attitudes, values, morals goals, and customs shared by a society.



Discuss What is Diversity about?,

di·ver·si·ty

/dəˈvɜrsədē/

noun

- **1.**the state of being diverse; variety:"there was considerable diversity in the style of the reports"
- **2.**the practice or quality of including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientations, etc.:"equality and diversity should be supported for their own sake"

