

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY: DECEMBER 22, 2015: GRATITUDE

Classroom Activities

Game 1

No materials needed

How would you feel without _____?

This game can be done any time during the day, the more silly mood you are in probably the better. Simply ask the kids what would they feel like without various items. They will be surprised how different life would be without some of the things they consider “normal” to have. You may like to begin a discussion about how other people live without such items, if it is age appropriate, to help them remember to appreciate what is sometimes taken for granted in their life.

Game 2

Materials:

Small pieces of paper (at least 20)

Bowl

Picture cut-outs (at least 50)

Envelopes (at least 20)

Put the names of each child on a small piece of paper. Put all pieces in a bowl. Have each child choose a name from the bowl—this is the person they will choose a “gift” for.

Next, children will look through a selection of picture cut-outs to choose a “gift” for the person whose name they picked. They will take this “gift” and “wrap” it in an envelope. Then, they will decorate the envelope and add their recipient’s name.

Lastly, all children will give their “gifts” to the person whose name they chose.

Think of these discussion points (for before and after the game)

Practice thinking about other people when you choose the gift

Practice saying thank you

Practice looking for the good qualities of the gift (for example, “Wow, that is a really bright highlighter”)

Discuss that someone gifts a gift to show that they care for the other person, not necessarily because the other person wants the thing.

Discuss the possibility of not getting what you “want”

Remember the purpose of gifts, that they are a sign of love.