



Be Kind

Listen to a Story – Solve a Problem

Grade Level: Pre-K to Grade 1

Description: After listening to a story about kindness, children will talk about the story and then solve a hands-on design problem related to it. Children will use simple at-home materials to create their solution to the problem.

What tools and materials do I need?

- Computer & internet connection to listen to read-aloud story
- Assorted art and craft supplies (e.g., paper, crayons or markers, glue, tape)
- Miscellaneous recyclable materials (e.g., colorful shopping bags, cardboard, empty plastic containers, toilet paper tubes)
- Simple office supplies (e.g., rubber bands, paper clips, stapler)
- One piece of whole fruit (i.e., apple, orange, banana, kiwi, peach) **or** vegetable (i.e., tomato, cucumber, zucchini) **or** flower “gift” per child [see design challenge in step 3]



What should I do?

1. **Listen to the read-aloud of the storybook**, [Be Kind](#), written by Pat Zietlow Miller and illustrated by Jen Hill. Children will learn how to show kindness to others by seeing the many ways that it is demonstrated in the story.
2. **Talk about the story.** Share examples of how kindness can be shown in your family or community. Help the children recognize how they have shown kindness. Can they think of times when someone didn't show kindness? How did it make them feel?
3. **Present the children with the following problem.** Modify it as desired to better connect to your family, friends, or neighbors. Change the gift item to whatever you have available (i.e., apple, orange, banana, kiwi, peach) or some flowers or a vegetable from your garden. If the child is capable of making a decision, offer several options and let him/her pick. For example, “*What do you think Mrs. Diaz might like better -- an apple or a banana or a flower?*”



Making gifts for others is a way to show kindness. I know a friend who really likes apples. She is sick. How can we hang an apple on her doorknob to let her know we care about her?

4. **Provide the children with assorted materials to design their solutions.** They should creatively design a new product, not simply use an existing object as is (e.g., put the apple in a shopping

bag or a flower in a vase). Encourage them to modify the materials they have to make a special gift. Having to think about how to hang it on a doorknob offers a unique engineering challenge that requires some additional problem-solving.

5. **Pose questions as the children solve the problem.** Help them to think through the problem and come up with their best working solution. For example:
 - How can you attach it to the doorknob?
 - What would make the part stronger?
 - Is it the right size for the fruit, vegetable, or flower being used as a gift? Is it too big or too small? How can you fix that?
 - How will she know who put it there?
6. **Deliver the gift to the friend when finished.** Try to hang it on his/her doorknob. If it doesn't work as intended, ask the child to modify the design or consider an alternative place to put it. Discuss how it felt to show kindness to another person.

Tags:

Art

Creative Thinking

Engineering

Listening

Parent Led Activity

Problem-Solving

Reading

Social-Emotional Learning

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