

Random Acts of Kindness has brought more meaning into my life, and I am committed to help spread the word.

— Carol, State Parent Facilitator, HI

do

These Lesson Plans are a culmination of school-wide activities and classroom activities, ranging from grades K-12.

Lesson Plan

Character Building - Brick Wall

Submitted by Marie; Riverhead, NY

Scope of Activity:

This could be done within a classroom or the entire school. If done with the entire school, the bulletin board would have to be centrally located or each class would do their own bulletin board and compete with each other.

Grade Level: Designed for 9-12 but EASILY adjusted to all grades.

Objective:

Students will develop and recognize positive character traits and random acts of kindness through modeling, positive reinforcement, class discussions and activities, and the charting of these traits.

Duration:

This activity should continue throughout the school year, however, the time in which you reward those with the most character will depend on the population and how often they need gratification. You could reward those with the most character building every week, every month or every quarter, then start over.

Materials Needed:

- Bulletin Board
- Paper Bricks
- Markers
- Glue
- Character Trait Posters (traits such as; respect, caring, responsible, honest, kind, etc.)

Preparation:

1. Create a bulletin board. Around the outside of the board display Character Trait Posters.

2. Create the heading "Character Building" for the title of the board. Write each students' name and staff members' names on a brick and glue them along the bottom of the board.

Motivation:

Ask the students to think of someone that they like. Have them discuss what they like about them. Encourage them to use words such as: respectful, kind, helpful, cooperative, caring, self-disciplines, trustworthy, etc.

Procedure:

1. Discuss how important it is to be a person who displays these traits and that we will be carefully looking for these traits in each other.
2. Discuss various character traits and their meanings through class discussions and activities. Discuss one trait at a time along with a relevant activity to assist students in developing an understanding of the trait. This should continue throughout the school year.
3. Explain that anytime a classmate or staff member does something that demonstrates a positive character trait or a random act of kindness, they will receive a brick. The brick will be glued above their name on the bulletin board. As they demonstrate more positive traits and perform acts of kindness they will continue to earn bricks and "Build Character:"
4. On the brick, students write the trait that they saw in the other student, the date and their name. For example, if Rosemary gives Steve a brick for being kind, Rosemary would write kindness, her name and the date on the brick and glue it above Steve's name on the bulletin board. This helps students to increase their self-esteem by seeing who rewarded their positive behavior. It also keeps a visual record of progress.
5. Explain that they cannot give themselves a brick and cannot ask someone to give them a brick.
6. Explain that at the end of a set time, week, month, or quarter, the student who has the tallest building or who has "built the most character" will receive a special reward. The buildings should then be cut apart and given to each student. Each student will have a strip of bricks containing all the positive traits peers have recognized in him or her. The process would then start again as this is an ongoing activity.
7. Model this activity by awarding bricks to fellow staff members. Proceed to guided practice by pointing out to students the positive traits that they should be rewarding to classmates. Continue these procedures until students are recognizing and rewarding positive traits and acts of kindnesses independently.

Evaluation Procedure:

1. Monitor students' progress through the bricks they are rewarding and receiving.

Expected Outcome:

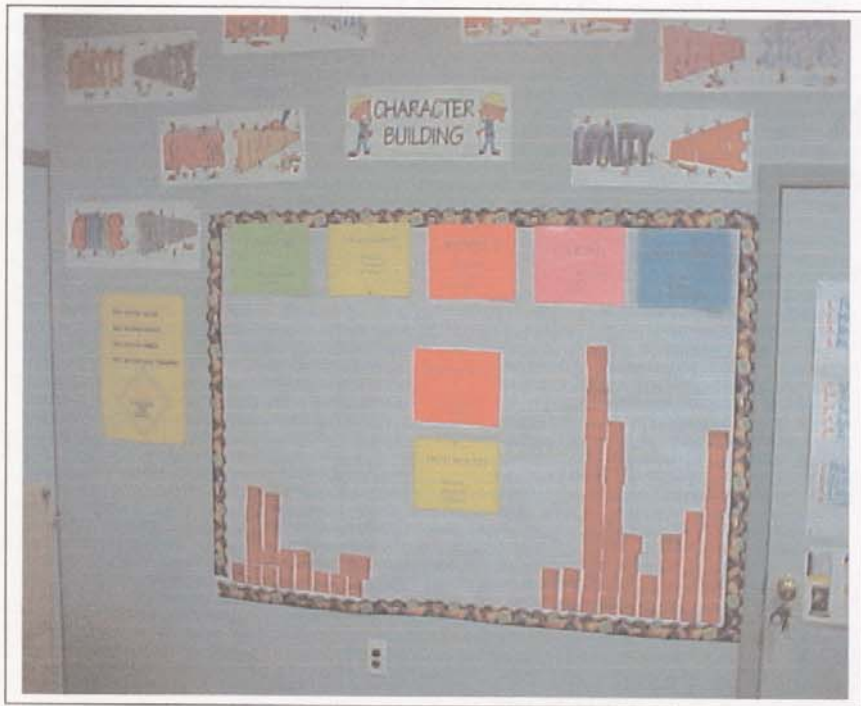
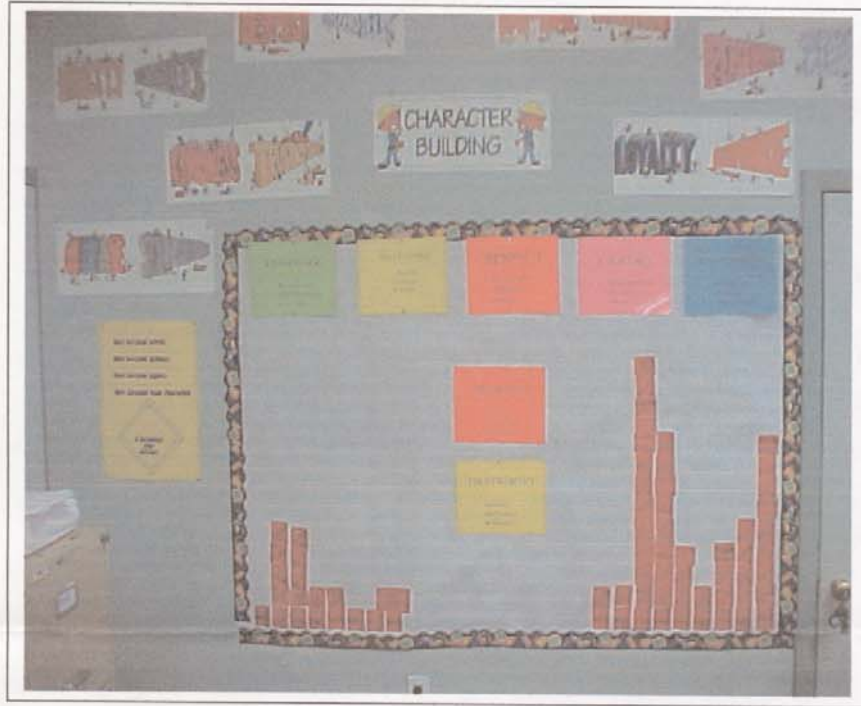
1. Students will develop positive characteristic traits.
2. Students will increase self-esteem as they receive bricks from peers.
3. Students will increase their ability to recognize positive traits.
4. Students will reflect upon their character and acts of kindness as they try to build the most character.
5. Students will experience the impact of their kindness as others return the favor and are kind to them.

Population:

This lesson can be applied to diverse populations. This lesson is designed for the secondary level. The bricks will resemble a wall of graffiti when complete. For younger students, ice cream cones could be used. The cone could contain their name and they would receive a scoop of ice cream stating the positive character trait witnessed. The student with the largest ice cream cone has the "Scoop" on building character. Regular mainstreamed students through handicapped students can successfully participate in this activity .The visual nature of this activity lends itself to be ideal for all populations.

Samples on the following pages

Character Building Bulletin Board



Character Building
Bulletin Board

Respectful

Responsible

Loyalty

Caring

Trustworthy

Kindness

Honesty

Teamwork

Self-control

CHARACTER BUILDING

Respect 3/15	Mike	Sally	Bob	Erin	Jake	Rose	Kevin
Loyal 3/2							
Caring 3/15							
Kind 3/10							

Bulletin Board surrounded by character trait posters.
Students' names across the bottom of the board.
As students perform acts of kindness or display a positive character trait they earn a brick above their name.

Brick Wall Sample:

