

Ready, Set, Go!

Materials needed:

1. A large thick ball of yarn.
2. The book, Liar, Liar Pants on Fire by Gordon Korman

Procedure:

Read the book, Liar, Liar Pants on Fire to the class.

The purpose of this activity is to visually demonstrate how telling lies over time creates a tangled web of dishonesty. Select 8 to 10 children to form a circle in the front of the classroom. Give one child the ball of yarn. With book in hand, the teacher asks the class to recall the sequence of lies told in the story. As each lie is remembered, the first child throws the ball of yarn to a child opposite him/her but keeps the end of the yarn in his/her hand. As the children continue to recall each lie from the story, students throw the ball to create a “web of lies”. It is important that they throw opposite whenever possible. Continue until all the lies been recalled and each child has a section of yarn in their hand. It is at this point when you emphasize that one lie leads to another, to another, and before long you are caught up in a web of dishonesty.

You will find this is a very popular activity with children. On another day with a different group of children do this activity again using a different book listed in the literacy section.

Activity 1:

A Game about Truth or Lies (that resembles the game “Mother May I?”)

Materials needed:

1. Chart paper or overhead projector
2. “Markers” for floor (can be tape or cards....what ever you choose)
3. Strips of paper with a list of truth and lies (see attached for suggestions)
4. Bowl or basket to hold strips of truth and lies

Procedure:

1. Show the students the words to the song *Truthfulness* on chart paper. Have the students listen and sing along.
2. After the song has been played, go over the words to the chorus and discuss the phrase "*lyin's playin' with a hornet's nest*" and "*truth is truth no more no less*"
3. Have a bowl or basket filled with truth and/or lies written on different sentence strips.
4. Place tape or markers on the floor so that they line up in a row like a ladder.
5. Each student playing the game needs to have 4 markers in their line (ladder).

6. Have the students stand on the first marker (toward the back so that the 3 or 4 markers are in front of each student).
7. The teacher or another student stands in the front of the room (in front of the markers) and reaches into a bowl or basket for a truth or lie. Address the first child and read the truth or lie. If it is a truth the child says "*truth is truth no more no less*" and gets to move to the next marker. If it is a lie the student says "*lyin's playing with a hornet's nest*" and cannot move forward.
8. Then proceed to the next child and repeat steps 1-5.
9. As in the game, "Mother May I", the first child to reach the last marker in his/her row is the winner.
10. It works best if you have 4 or 5 students play the game at a time. When the first game ends choose 5 new students to play.
11. Be sure to talk about the truth or lies as they are read. Talk about how you would feel if someone lied to you.

Suggested List of Truth and Lies that can be used for the game or make up your own

We are using non behavioral truths and lies. Use your own judgment as to what is appropriate for your own classroom.

1. The grass is green
2. The sun is blue.
3. $2 + 2 = 6$.
4. The roots grow up and flowers grow down.
5. There are 12 hours in a day.
6. There are 7 days in a week.
7. The first day of the week is Monday.