

## INCLUDES:

Activities For Individuals, Small Groups, Classrooms, and Learning Centers
All-School Activities
Bulletin Boards
Sociograms
Evaluations



Beginning-Of-The-Year
Communication
Self-Esteem and Self-Concept
Peer Relationships
Cooperation and Team-Building
Study Skills and Test-Taking Skills

**Decision-Making** 

Character Education
Career Awareness

Conflict Resolution, Anger Management, and Bullying Prevention
Creativity and Imagination
End-Of-The-Year

**COMPILED BY** 

Arden MarTenz

#### Awesome Activities

eBook ISBN: 978-1-57543-245-8 Paperback ISBN: 978-1-57543-135-2

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Published by Mar\*co Products, Inc. 1443 Old York Road Warminster, PA 18974 1-800-448-2197 www.marcoproducts.com

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Mar∗co Products, Inc. 1443 Old York Road Warminster, PA 18974 Phone: (215) 956-0313 Fax: (215) 956-9041

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# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	7
REGINNING OF THE YEAR	Q
BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	11
AWESOME ACTIVITY #1: GETTING TO KNOW YOU	12
AWESOME ACTIVITY #2: WHO'S NEW? AWESOME ACTIVITY #3: INTRODUCING THE COUNSELOR	13
AWESOME ACTIVITY #4: "WE ARE ALL SPECIAL" MOBILE	۱۶ 20
AWESOME ACTIVITY #5: TEACHER OF THE WEEK	22
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: COUNSELING STICKERS	25
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: YOUR COUNSELOR CAN HELP WHEN POSTER	2b
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: POWERBAR® WRAPPER	28
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: BOOKMARKS	29
COMMUNICATION	31
COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS	33
AWESOME ACTIVITY #6: COMMUNICATION BOUNCE	34
AWESOME ACTIVITY #7: COMMUNICATION HALT	35
AWESOME ACTIVITY #8. ENCOURAGEMENT PICTORES	38 38
AWESOME ACTIVITY #10: SHARE-A-STORY	40
AWESOME ACTIVITY #11: IMITATION	41
AWESOME ACTIVITY #12: ADD-A-THOUGHT	42 4?
AWESOME ACTIVITY #14: NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION	44
AWESOME ACTIVITY #15: NON-VERBAL INVENTION	46
AWESOME ACTIVITY #16: GOOD COMMUNICATORS	474 50 م
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: COMMUNICATION POSTER #1	51
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: COMMUNICATION POSTER #2	52
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: COMMUNICATION POSTER #3	53 54
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: COMMUNICATION POSTER #5	55
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: COMMUNICATION POSTER #6	56
SELF-ESTEEM AND SELF-CONCEPT	59
SELF-ESTEEM AND SELF-CONCEPT ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS	61
AWESOME ACTIVITY #17: BOUQUET	62 64
AWESOME ACTIVITY #18: I CAN DO IT ON MY OWN	68
AWESOME ACTIVITY #20: CLASS TRAIN	69
AWESOME ACTIVITY #21: ACTORS AND ACTRESSES	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #23: SELF-MOBILES	72
AWESOME ACTIVITY #24: BABY PICTURES BULLETIN BOARD	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #25: HOW I AM THE SAME AND DIFFERENT	74 76
AWESOME ACTIVITY #27: "ME" ADVERTISEMENTS	78
AWESOME ACTIVITY #28: WHO AM I?	80
AWESOME ACTIVITY #29: CLASSROOM QUILT	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #31: NICKNAMES	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #32: COMPLIMENTS-SPEAKER OF THE DAY	86
AWESOME ACTIVITY #33: A FAMOUS PERSON I ADMIRE	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #34: WHAT WOULD I DO?	90
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: TRYING TURTLE AWARD	92
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: CONFIDENCE-BUILDING WRISTBANDS	93
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: GOLD MEDALAWARD	
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: DEAR ME ACTIVITY SHEET	96
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: YOU ARE LIKE A DIAMOND—UNIQUE ACTIVITY SHEET	97

PEER RELATIONSHIPS	. 99
PEER RELATIONSHIPS ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS	. 101
AWESOME ACTIVITY #36: FRIENDSHIP MONTH	102
AWESOME ACTIVITY #37: FRIENDSHIP BOUQUET	106
AWESOME ACTIVITY #38: ROLE-PLAYING AND PUPPETRY	108
AWESOME ACTIVITY #39: GUESS THE VOICE	109
AWESOME ACTIVITY #40: FRIENDSHIP-GRAMS	110
AWESOME ACTIVITY #41: CLASS GRAND PRIX BULLETIN BOARD	113
AWESOME ACTIVITY #42: HELP! I NEED A FRIEND	114
AWESOME ACTIVITY #43: SBS—SECRET BUDDY SYSTEM	117
AWESOME ACTIVITY #44: CLIQUES: + OR – ?	110
AWESOME ACTIVITY #46: I'D LIKE TO KNOW YOU BETTER	120
AWESOME ACTIVITY #47: AM I A GOOD FRIEND?	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #48: KNOW YOUR FRIENDS.	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #49: A FRIEND IS BULLETIN BOARD	126
AWESOME ACTIVITY #50: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS AND PEOPLE	128
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: A GOOD FRIEND POSTER	129
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: FRIENDS BOOKMARKS	130
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: FRIENDS BOOKMARKS	131
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: FRIENDS AND ME ACTIVITY SHEET	132
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: PEER INTERACTIONS ACTIVITY SHEET	133
COOPERATION AND TEAM DUILDING	405
COOPERATION AND TEAM-BUILDING	133
COOPERATION AND TEAM-BUILDING ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS	137
AWESOME ACTIVITY #51: MAKE OUR SKIES BRIGHTERAWESOME ACTIVITY #52: COOPERATION WEEK	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #52: COOPERATION WEEK  AWESOME ACTIVITY #53: COOPERATIVE ROOM DESIGN	140
AWESOME ACTIVITY #53: COOPERATIVE ROOM DESIGN  AWESOME ACTIVITY #54: KNOW-YOUR-SCHOOL HUNT	1/15
AWESOME ACTIVITY #55: COOPERATIVE PUZZLE-SOLVING.	146
AWESOME ACTIVITY #56: COOPERATIVE COLLAGE	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #57: COOPERATION BALLOONS	148
AWESOME ACTIVITY #58: COOPERATIVE MATH	150
AWESOME ACTIVITY #59: CREATE-A-COLOR	151
AWESOME ACTIVITY #60: COOPERATIVE ART: ART APPRECIATION	152
AWESOME ACTIVITY #61: COOPERATIVE ART: PAINTING	153
AWESOME ACTIVITY #62: COOPERATIVE SCIENCE: INVENTIONS	154
AWESOME ACTIVITY #63: COOPERATIVE MUSIC	155
AWESOME ACTIVITY #64: COOPERATIVE ENGLISH: PARTS OF SPEECH	156
AWESOME ACTIVITY #65: COOPERATIVE READING	ID/ 150
AWESOME ACTIVITY #67: COOPERATIVE BOOK-WATTING	160
AWESOME ACTIVITY #68: COOPERATION? YES? NO?	161
AWESOME ACTIVITY #68: COOPERATION? YES? NO?  AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: IS IT COOPERATION? ACTIVITY SHEET	163
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: COOPERATION CODE ACTIVITY SHEET	164
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: COOPERATION MAKES ME FEEL ACTIVITY SHEET	165
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: TEAM POSTER	166
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: WAYS I CAN COOPERATE ACTIVITY SHEET	167
CTUDY CIVIL O AND TECT TAKING CIVIL I C	400
STUDY SKILLS AND TEST-TAKING SKILLS	169
STUDY SKILLS AND TEST-TAKING SKILLS AUTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS	170
AWESOME ACTIVITY #69: THE LEARNING WREATH	174
AWESOME ACTIVITY #70. MOTIVATING GOOD STODY HABITS	. 174 176
AWESOME ACTIVITY #72: TEST-TAKING VOCABULARY	170
AWESOME ACTIVITY #73: RATE YOUR STUDY HABITS	180
AWESOME ACTIVITY #74: TEST-TAKING PITFALLS	183
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: TODAY I LEARNED POSTER	188
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR THE DAY	189
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: DOOR KNOB HANGER	190
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: POINTERS FOR STUDENTS	191
DECICION MAIZING	400
DECISION-MAKING DECISION-MAKING ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS	193
DECISION-MAKING ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS	195
AWESOME ACTIVITY #75: OUR NEIGHBORHOOD	196
AWESOME ACTIVITY #76: ANIMAL COLLAGE	19/ 100
AWESOME ACTIVITY #77. SCHOOL PLACEMATS  AWESOME ACTIVITY #78: TRAIL OF DECISIONS	200
AWESOME ACTIVITY #79: FIVE BOXES	202

AWESOME ACTIVITY #80: IT'S MY CHOICE	204
AWESOME ACTIVITY #81: SNOWSTORM TO SUN BULLETIN BOARD	206
AWESOME ACTIVITY #82: REVIEWING A DAY'S DECISIONS	207
AWESOME ACTIVITY #83: FEELINGS AND DECISION-MAKING	208
AWESOME ACTIVITY #84: RANK-ORDER DECISIONS	209
AWESOME ACTIVITY #85: FEELINGS AND DECISIONS	212
AWESOME ACTIVITY #86: INCOMPLETE SENTENCES	
AWEOOME ACTIVITY #07. DECICIONE INVOLVE DICK	017
AWESOME ACTIVITY #87: DECISIONS INVOLVE RISK	217
AWESOME ACTIVITY #88: MY USE OF TIMEAWESOME ACTIVITY #89: TIME-MANAGEMENT AND GOAL-SETTING	219
AWESOME ACTIVITY #89: TIME-MANAGEMENT AND GOAL-SETTING	221
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: WHO DECIDES ACTIVITY SHEET	222
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: DECISION-MAKING DIAGRAM ACTIVITY SHEET	222
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: IT'S A PROBLEM ACTIVITY SHEET	
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: DECISION-MAKING STEPS POSTER	225
LEARNING CENTERS	227
LEARNING CENTERS PLANS	229
AWESOME ACTIVITY #90: WHAT I CAN AND CANNOT DO	230
AWESOME ACTIVITY #91: IDENTIFYING EMOTIONS	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #92: DEAR HERO	
AWESOWIE ACTIVITY #92. DEAR NERO	233
AWESOME ACTIVITY #93: INANIMATE OBJECTS	237
AWESOME ACTIVITY #94: SCIENCE IN OUR LIVES	239
AWESOME ACTIVITY #95: CREATE A NEW WORLD	241
AWESOME ACTIVITY #96: CHARACTERS IN HISTORY	2/12
AWESOME ACTIVITY #97: CREATING MY FUTURE	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #98: PLANTS AND ME	247
AWESOME ACTIVITY #99: SURVIVAL	250
AWESOME ACTIVITY #100: ANIMAL FOR A YEAR	253
AWESOWIE ACTIVITY #100. ANIIWALI OLYA LEAL	255
AWESOME ACTIVITY #101: YOU ARE THERE AT	255
AWESOME ACTIVITY #102: BACK IN TIME	257
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: LEARNING CENTER RULES OF CONDUCT POSTER	259
CHARACTER EDUCATIONCHARACTER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS	261
CHARACTER EDUCATION	201
CHARACTER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS	263
AWESOME ACTIVITY #103: YES/NO BANNERS	264
AWESOME ACTIVITY #104: OUR FOREST OF RESPONSIBILITY	265
AWESOME ACTIVITY #105: GOOD DEED CALENDAR	266
AWESOME ACTIVITY 4400 DEODONICH TY OLDER DOMAI	200
AWESOME ACTIVITY #106: RESPONSIBILITY SUPER BOWL	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #107: LOCKING AND UNLOCKING	270
AWESOME ACTIVITY #108: WHAT'S IT WORTH?	271
AWESOME ACTIVITY #100. RESPONSIBILITY	272
AWESOME ACTIVITY #109: RESPONSIBILITY	274
AWESOME ACTIVITY #110. SIGNIFICANT THINGS IN NIT EIFE	214
AWESOME ACTIVITY #111: INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN MY LIFE	2/6
AWESOME ACTIVITY #112: RESPECT	278
AWESOME ACTIVITY #113: CHARACTER JOURNAL  AWESOME ACTIVITY #114: NEWS OF THE DAY  AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: MANNERS/ETIQUETTE POSTER	281
AWESOME ACTIVITY #114: NEWS OF THE DAY	282
AWEGOME A CTIVITY FYTDA, MANIFESTED LETTE BOSTED	202
AWESONE ACTIVITY EXTRA. MAINNERS/ETIQUETTE POSTER	203
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: CHARACTER CALENDAR	284
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: RESPONSIBLE-STUDENT CHECKLIST ACTIVITY SHEET	285
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: MANNERS WORDSEARCH	286
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: BOOKMARKS.	287
THE COME TO THE LATTICE DOCTOR WITH COME	201
CARED AWARENESS	200
CAREER AWARENESS. CAREER-AWARENESS ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS.	Zŏ9
CAREER-AWARENESS ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS	291
AWESOME ACTIVITY #115: WORKERS NEED TOOLS	292
AWESOME ACTIVITY #116: WHO'S ON MY HAND?	207
AWESOME ACTIVITY #110. WHO S ON WITHAND?	234
AWESOME ACTIVITY #117: FAMILY CAREER TREE	296
AWESOME ACTIVITY #118: JOBS PRODUCE FEELINGS, TOO!	302
AWESOME ACTIVITY #119: CAREERS NEED EACH OTHER	304
AWESOME ACTIVITY #120: JOBS REQUIRE RESPONSIBILITY	306
AWESOME ACTIVITY #121: WORKING CONDITIONS	300
AWESOME ACTIVITY #121: WORKING CONDITIONS	300
AWESOME AUTIVITY #122: POSTAL WORKERS MUST CHECK ADDRESSES	310
AWESOME ACTIVITY #123: PLACES OF WORKAWESOME ACTIVITY #124: HAIRSTYLISTS SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS	312
AWESOME ACTIVITY #124: HAIRSTYLISTS SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS	0 12
AWESOME ACTIVITY #125: OCCUPATIONS HAVING SOMETHING IN COMMON	314
7.11-0.0 III-7.0 1111 1 // 120. 0.0001 / 1110110 11/10 II10 0.0 III 0. I	314
AMESOME ACTIVITY #126: TOOLS SLIDDLES AND EQUIDMENT	316
AWESOME ACTIVITY #126: TOOLS, SUPPLIES, AND EQUIPMENT	316 318
AWESOME ACTIVITY #127: PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS	316 318 320
AWESOME ACTIVITY #127: PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICSAWESOME ACTIVITY #128: PICTURE OF A WORKER	316 318 320 322
AWESOME ACTIVITY #127: PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS	316 318 320 322 324
AWESOME ACTIVITY #127: PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICSAWESOME ACTIVITY #128: PICTURE OF A WORKER	316 318 320 322 324

AWESOME ACTIVITY #131: WHICH JOB FOR ME?	328
AWESOME ACTIVITY #132: LIKES/DISLIKES AND JOB CHOICES	330
AWESOME ACTIVITY #133: JOB PUZZLEAWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE? ACTIVITY SHEET	332
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE? ACTIVITY SHEET	334
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: JOB AFFLICATION ACTIVITY SHEET	336
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: CAREER CROSSWORDAWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: HOBBIES CAN LEAD TO CAREERS ACTIVITY SHEET	337
TWEGOME TO THE EXTING HOSSIES OF WEEKS TO STREET OF THE THE STREET WHITE OF THE THE STREET WAS A STREET WHITE OF THE STREET WAS A STREE	
CONFLICT-RESOLUTION, ANGER-MANAGEMENT, AND	
BIII LYING PREVENTION	330
BULLYING PREVENTION CONFLICT-RESOLUTION, ANGER-MANAGEMENT, AND	
BULLYING PREVENTION ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS	341
AWESOME ACTIVITY #134: ANGER PUNCH	342
AWESOME ACTIVITY #135: I'M ANGRY AND I MIGHT	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #136: BULLYINGAWESOME ACTIVITY #137: TECHNIQUES FOR RESOLVING CONFLICTS	347
AWESOME ACTIVITY #137: TECHNIQUES FOR RESOLVING CONFLICTS	349
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: BULLYING REACTIONS POSTER	352
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: BULLY-BUSTIN VOWEL FILL-IN ACTIVITY SHEET	353
CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION  CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION ACTIVITIES AND EXTRAS	355
CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION ACTIVITIES AND EXTRAS	357
AWESOME ACTIVITY #138: FEELING LETTERS	358
AWESOME ACTIVITY #139: "LET'S CREATE" BULLETIN BOARD	359 360
AWESOME ACTIVITY #141: IMAGINATION TOSS GAME	361
AWESOME ACTIVITY #142: FAIRY TALE FOUL-UPS	362
AWESOME ACTIVITY #143: MIXED-UP HISTORY	363
AWESOME ACTIVITY #144: CREATE-A-GAME	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #145: SPORTS FUN	365
AWESOME ACTIVITY #146: ROLE-PLAY IMPROVISATIONS	366
AWESOME ACTIVITY #147. FROM THE VILLAIN 3 STANDPOINT	368
AWESOME ACTIVITY #148: WHAT IF?AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: FEELINGS ABOUT MY NAME ACTIVITY SHEET	369
SOCIOGRAMS	<b>^-</b> 4
SOCIOGRAMS	3/1
SOCIOGRAMS ACTIVITIES AND LESSONS	373
AWESOME ACTIVITY #149: CLASSMATE ISLAND	3/4
AWESOME ACTIVITY #150. FEAT BALL	380
AWESOME ACTIVITY #151: CHOICESAWESOME ACTIVITY #152: A CLASS PLAY	382
END OF THE YEAR	
END OF THE YEAR	385
END-OF-THE-YEAR ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS	387
AWESOME ACTIVITY #1537 THE BEST OF BULLETIN BOARD	388
AWESOME ACTIVITY #154: MIT CLASSIMATES AND ME	390
AWESOME ACTIVITY #156: "LIKE" VERSUS "DISLIKE" SCHOOL	392
AWESOME ACTIVITY #157: GROUP COLLAGE	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #158: REMEMBERING	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #159: REFLECTIONS	396
AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: GOOD-BYE CERTIFICATE  AWESOME ACTIVITY EXTRA: MEMORIES ACTIVITY SHEET	390
EVALUATIONS	
EVALUATION FORMS	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #160: THIS IS ME	404
AWESOME ACTIVITY #161: HOW I FEEL I AM DOING	406
AWESOME ACTIVITY #162: MY LIFE IN GRADE	407 .// // // // // // // // // // // // //
AWESOME ACTIVITY #164: WHAT IS REALLY ME?	409
AWESOME ACTIVITY #165: DISCOVERING	410
AWESOME ACTIVITY #166: COLOR YOUR TEACHER	411
AWESOME ACTIVITY #167: TEACHER-EVALUATION SHEET	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #168: PARENT-CONFERENCE EVALUATION	
AWESOME ACTIVITY #169: GUIDANCE-PROGRAM SURVEY	413

## INTRODUCTION

Activities come in many forms. They can be activity sheets, interactions, or bulletin boards. They can be used with individuals, in small groups, with classrooms, or as an all-school program. Activities can take up an entire class period or be completed in less time.

Activities are as versatile as the person presenting them, but there is one constant. No matter the type, the number of students involved, or the time needed to complete them, activities are an integral part of our educational system.

The ideas for this book came from the wealth of material published in *PIC (Practical Ideas For Counselors)*, a bi-monthly newsletter that was sold by subscription. When, after 25 years, Mar\*co Products decided to discontinue *PIC*, I found I had notebooks full of terrific ideas and I decided to compile these ideas into one publication.

The activities in this book have been divided into topics to make it easy to locate what you want, when you want it. At the beginning of each section, the activities are placed into one of the following categories:

- Complete Lesson Plans: These are classroom lessons that require an entire class period or more to complete. If warranted, *Additional Ideas* to enhance the lesson are included. The accompanying activity sheets may be reproduced.
- Activities: These activities may not require an entire classroom session. You will
  find ideas for activities that can be completed in a lesser time or in conjunction
  with another presentation, as well as reproducible activity sheets.
- Bulletin Boards: Guidance-related lessons that include creating a bulletin board.
- All-School Programs/Bulletin Boards: Programs that involve the entire student body in a common purpose.
- Reproducible Extras: A selection of pick-and-choose reproducibles that include bookmarks, awards, flyers, letters, posters, activity sheets, and much more.

Since the content of guidance topics must be reinforced when the counselor is not in the classroom, this book also includes a *Learning Centers* section. The activities offered in this section can take place in the classroom or, if the counselor is lucky enough to have space, in the counselor's room.

Sections on *Sociograms* and *Evaluations* are also included. These sections will help counselors better understand their students and their counseling programs.

Although many great activities featured in *PIC* were written by counselors from various parts of the country, none of them are included in this book. The activities in this book were written by Mar\*co staff members who have been practicing counselors. Not all the activities in this book were published in *PIC*. Some were developed from the wealth of information I have accumulated. I hope you find this collection as useful as I did, and I hope your students enjoy the activities as much as my students did!

## ENCOURAGEMENT PICTURES



## ObjecTive:

To allow students to receive complimentary verbal feedback from their classmates

## MaTerials Needed:

FOR THE LEADER:

Chalkboard and chalk or dry-erase board and marker (optional)

#### FOR EACH STUDENT:



## Pre-Presentation Preparation:

None

## Procedure:

**INTRODUCTION:** Introduce the topic of *encouragement* by saying the following sentence or writing it on the board.

Encouragement is recognizing the good part of something, even if everything isn't perfect. **ACTIVITY:** Tell the students:

It seems easy to find fault or notice things that are wrong or not done perfectly.

When someone tells you something is wrong with what you did, how do you feel? (sad, angry, hurt, etc.)

How do you feel when someone says something good about something you have done? (happy, glad, excited, etc.)

Today you are going to draw a picture. It can be a picture of anything you like. You may draw your picture on any color construction paper. I will give you (NUMBER OF MINUTES) minutes to draw your picture. Then we will talk about what we will do with the drawings.

Give each student a piece of construction paper, a pencil, and crayons or markers. Tell the students to begin drawing. When the allotted time has elapsed, have the students bring their drawings and sit in a circle. Then say:

Each of you will walk around the inside of the circle and stop in front of each person. As you stop in front of each person, hold your drawing so your classmate can see it. The person looking at your drawing should say some-

## MY LISTENING

**Directions:** Look at each line along the continuum. Put a mark on the line that tells how you act in listening situations.



	ER INTERRUPT OTHER PERSON		ALWAYS INTERRUPT PEOPLE
	YER NEED TO HAVE HINGS REPEATED		ALWAYS NEED TO HAVE THINGS REPEATED
	····· ···· ···· ···· ···· ···		
	VER UNDERSTAND IAT IS BEING SAID		ALWAYS UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEING SAID
	ı.©.,,,,		
SOI SO	EVER THINK ABOUT METHING ELSE WHEN OMEONE'S TALKING  Swer the following questions:	C	ALWAYS THINK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE WHEN SOMEONE'S TALKING
1.	I interrupt when someone is talking.	OFTEN	NOT VERY OFTEN
2.	I need to have things repeated.	OFTEN	NOT VERY OFTEN
3.	I understand what is being said.	OFTEN	NOT VERY OFTEN
1.	I listen most to		· ·
5.	I listen least to		·

## AWESOME ACTIVITY #17

## BOUQUET

## ObjecTive:

To recognize positive actions of others

## MaTerials Needed:

FOR THE LEADER:

☐ Vase

Construction paper

☐ Straws

Stapler and staples

## Pre-Presentation Preparation:

Using construction paper, make a variety of flowers. Staple a straw to each finished flower for a stem. Put the flowers in the vase.

## Procedure:

**INTRODUCTION:** Introduce the activity by saying:

Suppose you work and work to learn to ride a bike and when you have finally gotten it down, you ride toward your friends or parents. Nobody notices your accomplishment. How do you think you would feel? Which do you think makes a person feel

better, to accomplish something and have no one notice or to accomplish something and have it be noticed? (People like to be noticed.)

For the next few weeks we are going to notice accomplishments that the boys and girls in this classroom achieve.

## REPRODUCE THESE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING WRISTBANDS FOR KIDS TO WEAR.



Use a glue stick to attach the ends. You may want to let the children decorate their wristbands prior to gluing them around their wrists.



## FRIENDSHIP-GRAMS



## ObjecTive:

To have the students make positive comments to a classmate

## MaTerials Needed:

FOR THE LEADER:

Slips of paper containing th names of each student in th	
class ☐ Container	
☐ Paper	
Pencil	
FOR EACH STUDENT:	
<ul><li>☐ Friendship-Gram (page 112)</li><li>☐ Pencil</li></ul>	1

## Pre-Presentation Preparation:

Reproduce enough *Friendship-Grams* for the entire activity. Print the name of each student in the class on a slip of paper and put the papers in the container.

## Procedure:

**INTRODUCTION:** Ask the students:

How do you feel when you receive a "thank you" note, a nice letter, or a positive comment or compliment from another person?

If these things make you feel good, do you think you could make others feel good if you sent a "thank you" note, a nice letter, or gave a positive comment or compliment to someone?

We can make ourselves feel good by making others feel good.

**ACTIVITY:** Show the students the *Friend-ship-Gram*. Then say:

This is a *Friendship-Gram*. You are going to have an opportunity to write one to someone.

One day each week, I will have each of you select a name from this container. You are to look at the name, then give the slip to me. I will write down your name and the name written on the slip of paper. Do not tell anyone whose name you have.

**HELPFUL HINT:** FRIENDS... **Treat Others** The Way They Want To Be Treated. KIND RESPECTFUL TRUSTWORTHY HELPFUL LOYAL **SINCERE DEPENDABLE** 

**HELPFUL HINT:** FRIENDS... LISTEN! nah, blah, Mah and then I saw th olah, blah, blah, lah, blah, blah, b olah, blah, blah so after that I blah, blah, blah Don't do all of the talking.



## COOPERATION WEEK



## ObjecTive:

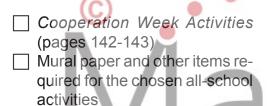
To emphasize the importance of cooperation by setting aside one week in which to perform cooperative activities in the classroom

## MaTerials Needed:

FOR EACH TEACHER:

Cooperation Week Activities (pages 142-143)

FOR THE COUNSELOR:



## Pre-Presentation Preparation:

Make a copy of the *Cooperation Week Activities* for the counselor and for each participating teacher.

## Procedure:

INITIATING THE PROGRAM: The first step in initiating an all-school program is to meet with the principal, go over your plan, and obtain permission to take the idea to the teachers. When asking teachers to do something guidance-related that is not on their regular schedule, be sure to have something in mind for the counselor to do as well. This is a program in which both teachers and the counselor will participate.

INTRODUCING THE PROGRAM: After receiving permission to proceed with the program, set aside one week as *Cooperation Week*. Determine a time to meet with the teachers. A faculty meeting is a good time to do this, since the time has already been set aside and teachers immediately know that the principal is in favor of the project.

Introduce the program by telling the teachers:

When students cooperate with one another, they learn to get along with each other and to respect individual differences. Cooperation is emphasized in individual classrooms at appropriate moments. But to impress upon the students the importance of cooperating with one another, we are going to set aside one week during which each classroom will perform one

## MOTIVATING GOOD STUDY HABITS



## ObjecTive:

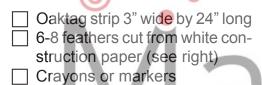
To have students identify good study habits and earn feathers

#### Materials Needed:

FOR THE LEADER:

<ul><li>☐ Scissors</li><li>☐ Stapler and staples</li><li>☐ Black marker</li><li>☐ Chalkboard and chalk or dry-erase board and marker</li></ul>
R EACH STUDENT:

#### FO



## Pre-Presentation Preparation:

Cut an oaktag strip 3" wide by 24" long and 6-8 feathers from white construction paper for each student.

#### Procedure:

**INTRODUCTION:** Tell the students, in your own words or reading from a book, the story of the first Thanksgiving. Include the Native Americans' contributions to this

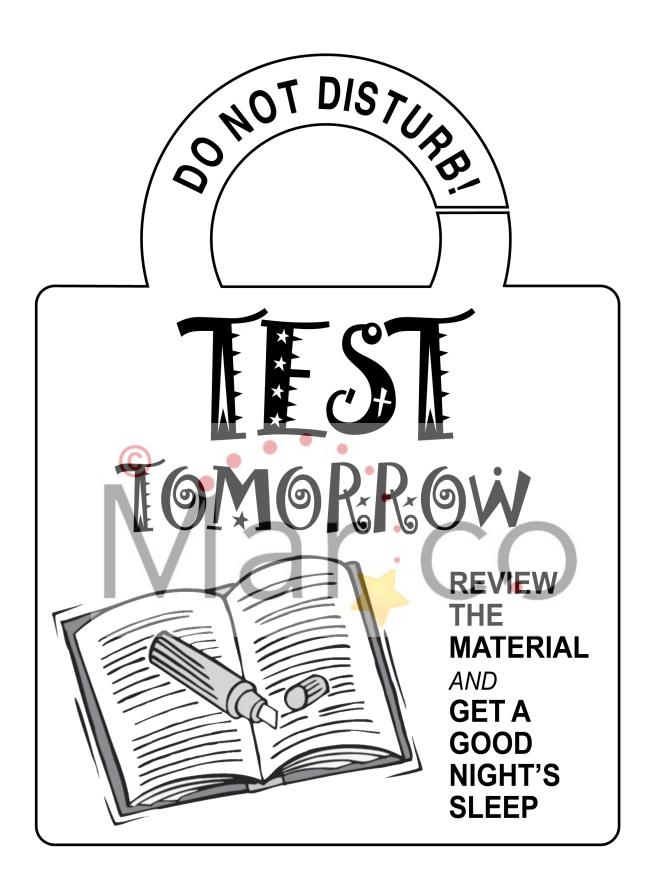
feast, such as wild turkey, venison, corn, and berries. Explain that many Native American tribes used feathers to celebrate important deeds.

**ACTIVITY:** Give each student an oaktag strip, 6-8 feathers, and crayons or markers. Then say:

Native Americans put feathers in their headdresses to make everyone aware of their important deeds. Today you are going to make your headdress to show something equally important for you as a student in (NAME OF GRADE). You can begin by decorating your piece of oaktag. (Stop the lesson until this has been accomplished.)

Now I want you to color each feather and write your name on the back of each feather. (As this is being done, go around the room and fit a headband to each individual student. Staple the ends together and cut off the excess oaktag. Collect the feathers.)

Continue the lesson by talking to the students about good study habits. Have them name things that help them and other students do their best at school. Write their contributions on the board as they are mentioned. The list should include: paying attention, working quietly, thinking before you answer, raising your hand, sitting in your seat, doing your own work, having materials ready, listening to directions,



## TRAIL OF DECISIONS



## ObjecTive:

To have students make good decisions about their behavior

#### MaTerials Needed:

FOR THE LEADER:

$\square$	Roll of shelf paper
	Markers, paints, or crayons of
	various colors
	Stapler and staples or glue
	stick

#### FOR EACH STUDENT:

81/2 X 11" piece of tagboard	0
Marker or pencil	
Scissors	9

## Pre-Presentation Preparation:

None

## Procedure:

**INTRODUCTION:** Choose a spot in the room where it will be possible to display a long sheet of shelf paper. This may be on the floor or around the walls of the room. The shelf paper should be in a place

where the students can easily reach it. The students should be able to decorate the paper without fear of tearing it or having it fall down.

**ACTIVITY:** Unwind the roll of shelf paper and show the students where it will be. Then say:

This is your *Trail of Decisions*. The trail will grow longer and longer as you make decisions and add to it.

What does a trail look like?

What might you find on a trail?

I want you to work together, using markers (crayons or paint) to decorate the shelf paper so it will look like a trail.

When the students have finished, roll the shelf paper back up. Then give each student a piece of tagboard, scissors, and a marker or a pencil. Say:

Using your piece of tagboard and a marker (pencil), draw around one of your feet. Then cut out your outline and print your name on your foot pattern.

Collect the foot patterns. Then say:

Between now and our next session you will be making decisions. Some of these decisions will have to do with the way you

### ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS BY PRINTING:

- for Mom M
- SM for Stepmom
- for Dad D
- for Stepdad SD
- for Me
- Т for Teacher
- for Friends
- for Others 0



## WHO DECIDES ...



- 1. what I wear to school?
- 2. \_\_\_ what I eat for breakfast?
- 3. \_\_\_ who my friends are?
- 4. \_\_\_ how neat I keep my desk?
- 5. \_\_\_ to brush my teeth?
- 6. \_\_\_ if I do my homework?
- 7. \_\_\_ what my jobs are at home?
- 8. \_\_\_ if I clean up my room?
- 9. \_\_\_ when I go to bed?
- 10. \_\_\_\_ whether I bring or buy my lunch?
- 11. \_\_\_ what my favorite food is?
- 12. \_\_\_ what game to play with my friend?
- 13. \_\_\_ what program to watch on TV?
- 14. \_\_\_\_ to remember my books for school?
- 15. \_\_\_ what my homework will be?
- 16. \_\_\_ if I complete my schoolwork?
- 17. \_\_\_ where I sit in the classroom?
- 18. \_\_\_ where I live?
- 19. \_\_\_ when to have recess?
- 20. \_\_\_ whether I can have a pet?

Count how many decisions were made by:

Mom Me

\_\_\_ Dad \_\_\_ Stepmom \_\_\_ Stepdad \_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_ Friends \_\_\_ Others

Who makes the most decisions in my life? \_\_\_\_\_

## CREATE A NEW WORLD



## ObjecTive:

To have the students analyze their world and create a world of their choice

## MaTerials Needed:

FOR THE LEARNING CENTER:

- ☐ Copy of Create A New World Instructions (page 242)☐ Paper☐ Pencils
- Collection bin

Place the *Create A New World Instructions*, paper, pencils, and a collection bin at the learning center.

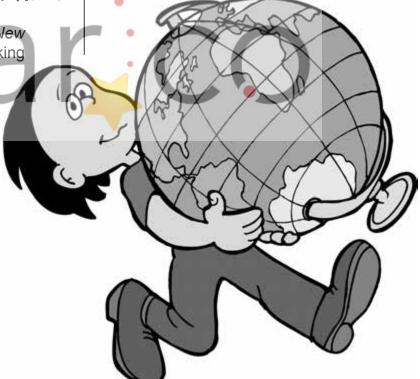
## Procedure:

Explain the activity and the instructions to the students. Tell the students the date on which you will collect the completed papers from the collection bin. The date should match the date filled in on the instructions.



Make a copy of the Create A New World Instructions. Prior to making a copy, fill in the dates.

 I will collect the papers in the bin on <u>DATE</u>, read them, and return them to their owners on <u>DATE</u>.



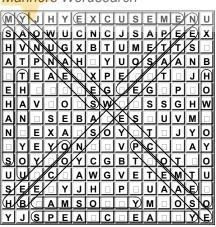
# CHARACTER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, LESSONS, AND EXTRAS

#### **ACTIVITIES AND LESSONS:**

Activity	Grades 1-2	Yes/No Banners	page 264
Bulletin Board	Grades 1-3	Our Forest Of Responsibility	page 265
Complete Lesson Plan	Grades 1-5	Good Deed Calendar	page 266
Bulletin Board	Grades 2-5	Responsibility Super Bowl	page 268
Activity	Grades 2-5	Locking And Unlocking	page 270
Activity	Grades 4-6	What Is It Worth?	page 271
Complete Lesson Plan	Grades 4-6	Responsibility	page 272
Complete Lesson Plan	Grades 4-6	Significant Things In My Life	page 274
Complete Lesson Plan	Grades 4-6	Influential People In My Life	page 276
Complete Lesson Plan	Grades 4-6	Respect	page 278
Activity	Grades 4-6	Character Journal	page 281
Activity	Grades 4-6	News Of The Day	page 282

#### **REPRODUCIBLE EXTRAS:**

Poster	Grades 1-3	Manners/Etiquette	page 283
Calendar	Grades 1-3	Character Calendar	page 284
Activity Sheet	Grades 2-5	Responsible-Student Checklist	page 285
Wordsearch	Grades 2-5	Manners Wordsearch	page 286



Extra: Bookmarks Grades 3-6 Character Education Bookmarks page 287

Each time you do an action on the calendar, mark it off. When all the squares are marked off, return your calendar to .

# Character<sub>CALENDAR</sub>



## FAMILY CAREER TREE



## ObjecTive:

To promote career-awareness by focusing on the career choices of the students' families.

### MaTerials Needed:

FOR THE LEADER:

☐ Brown construction paper or
brown paper from a large ro
☐ Green copy paper
Stapler and staples

#### FOR EACH STUDENT:

Copy of <i>Leaves</i> (page 298)
Copy of Our Family Career Tree
(page 299)
Scissors

## Pre-Presentation Preparation:

Cut out a tree trunk and four branches from brown paper and attach it to a bulletin board. Print signs for the branches (*Me, Father, Mother, Grandmother, Grandfather*). Attach the *Me* sign to the top of the tree and the other signs to each of the branches. Title the bulletin board *Our Class's Family Career Tree*.

Make a copy of *Leaves* on green paper and a copy of the *Our Family Career Tree* 

parent letter for each student. Staple the two sheets together for the students to take home. Tell the students on what date the *Leaves* activity must be returned.

## Procedure:

**INTRODUCTION:** When the *Leaves* activity sheets are returned, ask the students:

Did anyone find out something about their family they didn't know before?

Whenever we think of careers, it is important to remember that all jobs are important. For example, someone in this room may have had a grandparent who made the steel in your desk. Or someone in this room may have a father who drove the truck that brought the cereal that I ate for breakfast to the grocery store. No job is unimportant. We depend on every job to satisfy our needs.

Establish the relationship between where a person lives and the jobs available in that area by saying:

Work is often related to where we live. For example, let's say someone has a grandfather who made steel. Where would he have to live? (In a town that had a steel mill.) Would we find that

AWESOME ACTIVITY #123

#### PLACES OF WORK **Directions:** Match each occupation in column one with its place of work in column two. Write the number of the occupation on the line in front of the place where the worker could be found working. **OCCUPATION** PLACE OF WORK Fisher 1. Meat market 2. Teacher Morgue \_\_\_\_ Office 3. Air traffic controller 4. Secretary Ranch 5. Hostess Newspaper office \_\_\_\_ Church 6. Anesthetist \_\_\_\_ Spaceship 7. Lawyer X-ray technician New home 8. 9. Sports announcer Boat 10. Hospital Mechanic Pharmacist Airport 11 12. Photographer Rock concert 13. Courtroom Heavy equipment operator 14 Drug store Butcher Football game 15. **Florist** 16. Garage Custodian 17. Chemist Medical clinic 18. Wedding Reporter 19. Crop duster Airplane 20. Astronaut School 21. Flower shop Coroner \_\_\_\_ Laboratory 22. Guitar player \_\_\_ Restaurant 23. Roofer 24. Minister, Priest, Rabbi Construction site 25. Cowboy Apartment building

## BULLYING

Circle yes or no for each question. If you have no idea about an answer, circle the question mark (?).

1.	Do you know of students who are teased, hit, or mistreated by other students?	YES	NO	?
2.	Are these students mistreated almost every day?	YES	NO	?
3.	Are these students mistreated once in a while, but not every day?	YES	NO	?
4.	Does one or more students in your classroom act like a bully?	YES	NO	?
5.	Does one or more students in this school act like a bully?	YES	NO	?
6.	Are one or more students in your classroom mistreated by other students?	YES	NO	?
7.	Do you know of students who are teased, hit, or mistreated after they leave school?	YES	NO	?
8.	Do these students have friends with whom they can share their problems?	YES	NO	?
9.	Do you think bullying makes a person feel worthless?	YES	NO	?
10.	Do you think bullying makes a person feel rejected or left out?	YES	NO	?
11.	Do you think bullying makes a person feel	1470		
	ashamed of the way he/she looks or acts?	YES	NO	?
12.	Do you think bullying takes a person's mind off his/her schoolwork?	YES	NO	?
13.	Do you think bullying could cause a person's grades to drop?	YES	NO	?
14.	Do you think bullying could cause a person to not want to come to school?	YES	NO	?
15.	Do you think bullies treat others in a hurtful way because they have problems themselves?	YES	NO	?
16.	Do you understand why bullies act the way they do?	YES	NO	?
17.	Are you a person who is bullied?	YES	NO	?
18.	Are you a person who bullies others?	YES	NO	?
19.	Are you a bystander—a person who sees bullying taking place but does nothing about it?	YES	NO	?
20.	Are you afraid of becoming a victim of bullying?	YES	NO	?

## WHAT IF?



## ReLated Guidance Topic:

**Decision-making** 

## ObjecTive:

To have the students make decisions about hypothetical situations

#### Materials Needed:

None

Pre-Presentation Preparation:

None

Procedure:

**INTRODUCTION:** What If's are turnedaround examples of things students are familiar with in their everyday lives. For example, students know bears hibernate in winter and people don't. But what if parents hibernated all winter?

**ACTIVITY:** Using this and similar sentences, hold a class discussion. Have the students make decisions about what would happen if this were true and justify their responses.

Some examples could be:

- What if everybody's hair fell out in autumn?
- What if ants were as strong as humans?
- What if people could only think for eight hours a day?
- What if paper were as strong as steel?
- What if your mind could not control your feet or hands?
- · What if only cats could sing?



## Additional Idea:

This activity could be adapted into a debate. Select two students to decide upon an answer to the question, then have them debate why their answer is correct. To avoid too much competition, do not have the students vote for a winner.



# WHAT I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED **Directions:** Below are some subjects you study in school. If there are subjects listed that you do not study, cross them out. If some subjects you study are not listed, write them on the blank lines. Show where you believe you stand on the chart by placing a in one of the first four boxes. Then evaluate your effort by placing an **x** in one of the last two boxes. FAIR LANGUAGE ARTS MATHEMATICS READING SOCIAL STUDIES SCIENCE COMPUTER ART MUSIC PHYSICAL EDUCATION