

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING KITS

K – 3 SEL Kit #4

Let's Build

Why This is Important: There are various ways to teach social skills by playing with blocks and robots. Playing with toys can teach students about taking turns, making good choices, and developing problem-solving skills. Play can also lead to increase sharing, expressing of feelings, and working well with others.



Activity 1: Let's Build It!

1

Grade Level: Kindergarten - Third Grade

Duration: 20 minutes

Materials: Magnetic Blocks, Magna-Tiles

Tasks:

- Determine what type of structure you want students to build (e.g., an imaginary tower, a structure based on a real-life building from history or a book, a bridge, etc.).
- Determine the criteria for success (e.g., the tallest standing tower, the most interesting tower, a bridge that supports weight, etc.).
- Review any necessary vocabulary to support the task. Distribute blocks to small groups of students.
- Ask students to build the identified structure and share the criteria for success.
- Once students have created their structures, have students take pictures of their creations and reflect on the building process:
 - What steps did you take to build this structure?
 - How does your structure meet the criteria for success?
 - What made building this structure difficult?
 - Did your structure collapse? Did you have to take apart all or part of your structure and begin again?
 - What would you do differently when building another structure?
 - Was it easier or more difficult to work with others to create the structure? Why?
- Have students present their structures to the class.

Safety Measures: Possible choking hazard with smaller blocks

Differentiation: Students can write responses to their reflection or record a short video or audio clip sharing their reflections. Students can work in pairs or in small groups to assist one another. The activity can be scaffolded to provide building tips, examples of completed structures, different building materials, or additional building requirements.

SEL Connection: Social Awareness and Relationship Skills



Activity 2: Building Brick Challenge

2

Grade Level: Kindergarten - Third Grade

Duration: 20 minutes

Materials: Building bricks, challenge cards, and reflection sheets

Tasks:

- Review any necessary vocabulary to support the task.
- Distribute building bricks and challenge cards to individual students.
 - Challenge card example: Build a maze to get the marble from start to finish.
- Using only the image or limited instructions provided on the challenge card, have the students build an object that completes the challenge.
- Once the challenge has been completed, have students reflect on the challenge:
 - What steps did you take to complete the challenge?
 - How did you test your construction to determine if you successfully completed the challenge?
 - What made this challenge difficult?
 - Did you have to take apart all or part of your construction and begin again?
 - What would you do differently when completing another challenge?

Safety Measures: Possible choking hazard with smaller blocks

SEL Connection: Self-Awareness and Self-Management

Activity 3: Guess Who?

3

Grade Level: Second Grade

Duration: 30-45 minutes

Materials: BeeBot; pictures of faces of different book characters, cultures, historical figures, community helpers; and tape

Tasks:

- Review any necessary vocabulary to support the task.
- Discuss the pictures on the cards. Who are the people/characters? What is special about them? What do they do? What are different physical characteristics (clothing, glasses, beard, etc.)?
- Tape the pictures together and arrange them on a large table or on the floor.
- Assign each student (or group of students) one of the picture cards.
- Have students write a set of clues for their assigned picture card. (For example, this person helps enforce local and state laws. He wears a blue uniform and a badge. He has short hair. Who is it?)
- Have other students guess the correct person and program BeeBot to move from a starting point to that picture card.
- Continue until all picture cards have been identified and “found” by the BeeBot.

Optional: Students can create their own artwork to represent people or characters or take the photographs themselves.

SEL Connection: Self-Awareness and Social Awareness



Activity 4: Grid Challenge

4

Grade Level: Third Grade

Duration: 45 minutes

Materials: BeeBot; pictures of faces of different book characters, cultures, historical figures, community helpers; and tape

Tasks:

- Create a 4x4 grid by taping together pieces of construction paper. Arrange the grid on the floor or large table.
- Review any necessary vocabulary to support the task.
- Challenge students to work in groups to make the BeeBot visit all the squares on the grid using as few moves as possible.
- Provide students with a “planning sheet” that contains a smaller version of the 4x4 grid and a place for them to write out the commands for the BeeBot.
- Have students work together to plan the route(s) the BeeBot can take to visit all squares on the grid. Have students determine:
 - How many different routes can they create?
 - Which commands are needed for each route?
- Have the students record the list of commands on the planning sheet.
- Have the students program the BeeBot to follow the route and then run a test of their programmed route. Have students determine:
 - Did the BeeBot visit all the squares?
 - How many moves were needed?
 - How many different routes did the group find?
 - Which route was the quickest (had the least number of moves)?
- Have students demonstrate their route to the class and discuss their findings.

SEL Connection: Self-Management, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision Making

