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PHIL-92-3 Philosophy for Children  
Thursday November 3, 2022

### **The Building Blocks of Ethics**

Subject of Discussion: Ethics (sharing)

Age Range: 5-6

Total Time: 45 minutes

Materials: *It's Mine!*, wooden blocks (~16-20 blocks for a 7-8 person group, teachers included)

Learning Objectives:

- Students will be able to think about why it is important, if it is, to treat others well.
- Students will be able to think about the ethics of sharing and personal property.
- Students will participate in a hands-on activity demonstrating the possible benefits or downsides of sharing

Introduction (5-10 mins)

- Remind the students of our names
- Make rules for being outside
  - Stay on our "island"/tarp
- Question of the week
  - What is something that belongs to you?
- Intro to Lesson Questions:
  - What is sharing?
  - Do you like to share? If no, why not?
  - What are some things that you have to share? When?
  - Is sharing good? Why?

Reading: *It's Mine!* (5-10 mins)

Book Discussion: (5-10 mins)

- Personal property
  - What is your favorite toy? How do you feel when you see someone else playing with it? What toys do you like to share? Why? Can you decide who plays with what and when?
  - Is there anything that is okay to just be yours? Is there anything you *shouldn't* share?
    - Is there any time when saying, "It's mine!" would be the right thing to say?
    - Examples to give if discussion slows down: toothbrush, food while sick
  - Are your thoughts yours? What if somebody takes your thought/ says your thought before you?

- Are there thoughts you should vs should not share? What about something that would make someone else sad?
- Common property
  - One of the frogs says “Worms are for everybody!”
    - What are things that belong to everyone?
      - Ex. nature, the air, earth
  - How do we divide common property up for people to use? (what is the best way to cut a cake, set aside land, etc.)
  - What is the difference between things you can own and things that are owned by everyone?
- Consequentialism vs. Deontology
  - The frogs learn to share after realizing it benefits them. Is that the only reason to share? To be good to others?
  - Why should you be good to others? Is it because it is good for them? Good for you?
  - Are there things you should or should not do, no matter what happens?
  - How do you feel when you share? How do you feel when you are nice to others?

*~ movement break: frog or toad hopping (slow-mo or one hop at a time) ~*

#### Activity: Building Blocks

- Give each student 2 blocks and ask them to build something with the blocks
  - Have the students notice that there are not many possibilities to build something with only 2 blocks... you can put them on top of each other or beside each other but not many other options
  - Ask how we could build something bigger? We do not have any more blocks so what can we do?
    - Try to get them to suggest working together and ask...
- What if we share the blocks and put them all together?
  - Have them build one structure with all of the blocks, sharing ideas, and working together
  - Have them notice that when you work together and share you are able to build something cooler
- Discussion while/after building:
  - Why was it difficult to build something with only the blocks you had?
  - Was it difficult to share your blocks?
  - Was it difficult to work together and agree on how to build our building? What are some good things about teamwork? Are there bad things?
  - Who does our building *belong* to? Is it all of ours? Is it no one's?

#### Conclusion (5-10 mins)

- When you go home today, what will you tell your adult/grown-up/siblings about what you learned?