

Philosophy for Children  
Lesson Plan: **Ethics**  
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Total time: 45 minutes

**Materials:**

- The Rainbow Fish
- Stickers

**Objective:**

- To get the children to understand basic principles of ethics specifically as it pertains to sharing and identity. Moreover, have the students consider questions that govern how people ought to act. We want to push them to make decisions about “what is fair,” both in books and their own lives to then push them about their beliefs.

**Introductions:**

- Icebreaker: introduce yourself, go over norms again
- Introduce ethics: what is wrong and right? What is fair? Who gets to decide what is fair?
  - Trying to figure out what is wrong and what is right is called Ethics

**Activity 1:**

- Ask different hypothetical questions – have each student share
  - Is stealing ok?
  - Is it okay to lie?
  - Is sharing always right?

**Activity 2:**

- Read *The Rainbow Fish* and discuss (try and stay away from the aesthetic qualities of the beautiful fish and center the conversation around the beautiful fish having something that the others do not)
- Children will be asked to stand up if they agree or sit down if they disagree (respectively) with the questions being posed.
  - Guiding questions (ask children to stand up and sit down, based on their answers, and then discuss):
    - Is it fair that the rainbow fish was born with all the beautiful scales and the other fish were not?
    - Does the rainbow fish have to share his scales? Is it wrong not too?
    - If you were rainbow fish, would you give away your scales?
    - If you were blue fish, would you ask for a scale?
    - Should everyone look the same? Is that more fair?

**If time:**

- Sticker Activity
  - Have students choose 5 of their favorite stickers from a larger pile
  - Once stickers are chose have all (or only a few students) give away their favorite sticker

- Students are either
  - Are upset about sharing stickers/ giving them away **or**
  - Are okay with giving stickers away
- In either case it will lead to discussion about sharing
  - Discussion Questions
    - Why were you okay/ not okay with sharing? Does it make you feel good?
    - Did you think having to give away a sticker was fair? Why why not?
    - What if someone didn't want to share? Do you think that they should have to share