

Lesson Plan #3: Ethics

Anna, Eli, and Mia

Time: 45 minutes

Age: 5-6 years

Materials: Pumpkin Pale, Paper Candy, Chairs, Trolley, Trolley Figurines

Learning Objectives:

- Explore fairness vs. unfairness and sharing vs. selfishness
 - Is “selfishness” okay in some instances? Does everything always have to be fair?
- Deciding if fairness has exceptions based on circumstances
- Proposing ethical dilemmas and learning how different factors may influence decisions

Intro (5 min)

- Review names and pronouns
- How was Halloween? Did you dress up and trick-or-treat?
- What’s the best candy you got/your favorite?

Activity 1: Dividing the paper Halloween candy (10 min)

- Split the candy into 4 pieces but say there are 5 friends (use trolley figurines)
 - Who should get the candy pieces/how should we split the candy up?
 - Give all the candy pieces to one person→ is this fair?
 - What is a fair way to divide the candy? (hopefully they say one piece each)
- Split the candy so there is one per person
 - Is this a fair way to divide the candy?
 - What if one person is extra hungry?
 - What if one person is hungry because they forgot lunch?
 - What if one person is bigger than the others?
 - What if one person doesn’t like candy?
 - What if one person has to feed their baby at home?
 - What if only one person is hungry?
- Same candy but now the kids are the ones sharing the candy
 - Imagine these people are you, how should we divide the candy now?
 - Does it change when you are thinking about yourself vs other people?
- What is the most fair way to divide the candy?
- Can fairness look different in different situations?
 - Giving one person all of the candy

- Sharing some of the candy because although you'd like it, someone's in greater need
- Have you ever experienced something like this?
- Do we always have to share?

Activity 2: Trolley Problem (10 min)

- Bring in train tracks and explain the situation
 - They will get hurt so it's less scary
- What should we do?
- Is switching the train the right thing to do? Even if one person will get hurt? Is it better to hurt many people or just one? What if the one person is your parent/sibling? (say the tigers are related)
- What would you want someone to do if you are the one person?

Activity 3: Musical Chairs (10 min)

- Set up a typical game of musical chairs
- After 1 or 2 rounds, ask: how does it feel to not get a chair?
- Ask one of the kids still in a chair: how would you feel if you didn't get a chair?
- Is there a way that everyone can get a chair?
- Is this game fair?
- Is it fair if ___ didn't get a chair but they were the slowest? Is it unfair to give up your chair even though you won fair and square?
- Could we share the chairs?

End (5 min)

- Reflections
 - How did you feel about our conversation?
 - What do you find fair vs. unfair?
 - Do you think sharing is good? Can sharing be bad?
 - Do you ever know what the best thing to do in a difficult situation is?