

Little Blue Engine's Kindness Train

This activity works best with:

- SMALL GROUPS
- CLASSROOMS/LIBRARIES
- ACTIVITY STATIONS AT LARGE EVENTS

Preparation Time: LOW

Materials: \$

OVERVIEW

Children draw pictures about a time they helped someone and with the help of adults write a few words about their drawings. These drawings are displayed on a mural as train cars on the Little Blue Engine's kindness train.

MATERIALS & PREPARATION

MATERIALS:

- Assorted colors of construction paper
- Markers, crayons, and other writing/drawing tools
- Large sheet of butcher paper and tape
- 1 or more copies of *The Little Engine That Could*

PREPARATION:

Create the Little Blue Engine's kindness train mural –

- Use large sheet of butcher paper and draw a large Little Blue Engine at front of paper
- Draw a train track from the engine to the back of the paper. The children's drawings will be displayed as train cars following the Little Blue Engine on this track.
- Across the top of the paper write, in large text, "The Little Blue Engine's Kindness Train" and display mural on wall. If you are not able to hang mural, the mural can be displayed on a table or on the floor/ground.
- Create examples of drawings - kindness train cars - to share with children

INTRODUCTION

- Begin this activity by talking about the Little Blue Engine - Ask children, "What did the Little Blue Engine do in the story?"
- Tell the children that today we will be drawing our own pictures about a time we helped someone do something – just like how the Little Blue Engine helped the dolls and toys get over the mountain to the good boys and girls (show examples of kindness train).
- Tell the children that we will put our drawings on the mural behind the Little Blue Engine to make a Kindness Train – our own train full of pictures about times we helped people!

ACTIVITY

- Using a sheet of construction paper of their choice, children draw pictures about a time they helped someone. If children are not able to think of a time they helped someone, encourage them to draw/write about a time someone helped them.
- Encourage children with help of adult to write their names and a few words about their drawings. If children cannot write on their own encourage them to dictate to adults. Adults should write word for word what the children say and read back the language they have written.
- Have children post their drawings to the mural when they are finished.
- If time permits, invite children to help decorate Little Blue Engine's Kindness Train mural by adding scenery, railroad signs and signals, etc.

TIPS FOR CONVERSATION

- Have adults discuss the words kind, kindness, and what it means to help someone – "Do you know what the words kind and kindness mean?" Discuss the meaning of these words with children and give simple clear examples. "Do you think the Little Blue Engine was a kind engine?" "Why?" "Who did she help?"
- Engage children in dialogue about being kind - "Tell me about a time you were kind to a friend or when someone was kind to you. How did it make you feel?"
- Adults can also share examples of being kind or when someone was kind to them to encourage dialogue if the child doesn't have a story to share. The example should be simple and clear.
- Encourage children to talk about their drawings – "Tell me about your drawing. Who are you helping?" "What did you help him/her do?" "How did it make you feel to help him/her?" "How do you think he/she felt having your help?"

LEARNING CONNECTION

- New words: Kind / Kindness / Helper
- The conversations you have after reading are just as important as the actual reading.
- Providing opportunities to understand and express their feelings helps children develop social-emotional understanding and skills which helps prepare them to be a part of a classroom learning community.
- Build on children's ideas by introducing new words and information.