TEACHING PRACTICES

SEL Activity Prompts

Kindergarten-5th Grade

You can infuse SEL teaching into any game or activity by using the following prompts with children. Prompts are organized by SEL skill and Words to Live By lessons.



SELF-AWARENESS

Love and accept who you are

- What is a strength of yours that made this activity easy for you?
- What is a weakness of yours that made this activity difficult for you?
- What was a strength of your group during this activity?
- What group weakness should we work on as a whole next time?
- What strategy did your group use to utilize people's different strengths?
- What is something unique about your personality that stood out during this activity?
- Which personality traits of yours helped you or your group during this activity?
- Which personality trait of yours may have gotten in the way during this activity?
- What is something you'd like to work on if you did this activity again?
- Based on a strength you used during this activity, what is something else you'd be good at doing?

Share your emotions

- What were some emotions you felt before you started this activity? Why?
- What were some emotions you felt during the activity? Why?
- What were some emotions you felt after the activity? Why?
- Did your emotions change during the activity? If so, what were the different emotions felt?
- Share an emotion you felt during the activity. What did it look like?
- Identify an emotion you felt during the activity. How did you know it was that emotion?
- Can you name something that occurred during the activity that caused you to feel a particular emotion? Is this an emotion you feel every time something like this occurs?
- Raise your hand if you felt defeated at any point during the activity. What do you typically do when you feel this way?
- Raise your hand if you felt victorious at any point during the game. What do you typically do when you feel this way?
- Who can name a unique emotion they experienced during this activity and describe what that felt like?



Understand that life is full of surprises and different feelings

- What is an emotion you felt during this activity that made it difficult for you to control yourself?
- What is an emotion you felt during this activity that made it easy to control yourself?
- What were some of the surprises that came up during this activity? How did those make you feel?
- What part of the activity made it difficult for you to control yourself?
- Can anyone identify an emotional trigger that occurred during this activity?
- What was something that frustrated you during this activity?
- What caused some of the different emotions you felt during this activity?
- What was something that worried you during this activity?
- Was there a rule in this activity that was hard for you to follow?
- How did it feel for you to compete in this activity? How does it feel to win or not win?

Learn to control yourself

- What were some ways you were able to remain calm during this activity?
- Did anyone else in the group help you remain calm? If so, how did they help?
- What were some things that you had to say or think to yourself to stay calm during this activity?
- What were some ways you controlled what you said during this activity?
- What were some ways you reacted positively during the activity?
- What were some ways you reacted negatively during the activity?
- Have you done any activities similar to this one, where it was hard for you to remain in control?
- Were there any times you thought about breaking a rule of the activity? Did you? Why or why not?
- What was a positive result of you staying in control during this activity?
- What could have been a negative result of losing control during this activity?



Make choices that are best for you

- Can you share an example of a step you needed to think about before you acted?
- Name some other choices you could have made during the activity.
- Did anyone change their initial choice after thinking through some potential consequences? Why?
- Now that you have completed this activity, what choice would you change if you could?
- Did anyone find themselves in a Yes MESS? If so, how could that mess have been avoided?
- Can you share an example of positive peer pressure that occurred during the activity?
- Can you share an example of negative peer pressure that occurred during the activity? Did you fall into it or avoid it?
- What were some ways you were able to avoid negative peer pressure? What choices did you make?
- Think of a time in the activity that you could have used positive peer pressure. Share an example of what you could have said?
- What were the consequences that could have occurred during this activity?

What happens as a result of your choices is on you

- What agreements did you make with your group before the activity began?
- Show your ID for something good/positive you were responsible for during the activity.
- Show your ID for something that might have hurt the group during the activity.
- Does anyone want to make amends for something they feel bad about that happened during the activity?
- Were there any choices you made that led to the outcome of the activity?
- Where you able to uphold an agreement with yourself or your group during the activity?
- Were any agreements broken? If so, can you show your ID?
- Does anyone want to show their ID for blaming others during the activity instead of taking responsibility for yourself?
- If you started blaming others, what is one choice you made that you could take responsibility for?
- Was anyone proud of something they did during the activity that they would like to share?



Others are unique and it's important to learn more about them

- Before we start, talk about your strategy as a group. Share an idea from someone else in the group.
- If multiple groups, before the activity, switch leaders. After the activity ask: What was it like having a
 different leader today?
- Before the activity, mix up the groups. After the activity ask: What was it like having a different group of students in this activity?
- What is something new you learned about someone else during this activity—an interest, strength, etc.?
- Did someone have a different opinion than you? If so, what was it?
- Does anyone have an idea for a different way to do this activity?
- Did anyone change their first idea after they heard or saw what someone else was doing?
- What were some different ideas that your group had for how to do this activity?
- Turn to your neighbor and ask them their favorite part of the activity. Who had different answers?
 What were they? Who had similar answers? What were they?
- Who can come up with a new rule to add to this activity for the next time?

Step into the shoes of others

- What is an emotion someone else in the group might have felt during this activity? How could you tell?
- How do you think the other groups felt during the competition?
- What emotion did you think I felt during this activity? How could you tell?
- When you were the person who was "it" or guessing, what emotion do you think others were feeling?
- Who can share a positive emotion someone in the group might have felt and why? What was his/her tone of voice?
- Who can share a negative emotion someone in the group might have felt and what his/her facial expression looked like?
- Who can share a negative emotion someone in the group might have felt and what his/her voice sounded like?
- Did anyone use his/her surroundings to try and figure out how someone else felt? What was the clue from his/her surroundings that helped you guess that person's emotion?
- If you saw someone in your group upset, what would be the best thing to do to step into their shoes?



Be a friend who supports and trusts others

- Were you given a compliment during the activity? How did it help you?
- Can anyone give a compliment to someone in the group for the activity we just completed?
- What is an example of a way that you were supportive towards others during the activity?
- Did anyone give you positive feedback while playing? If so, what did they say and how did that motivate you?
- Did anyone prove they could be trusted during this activity? How?
- Can you give some positive feedback about this activity?
- Who was someone who supported you? Please share and give them positive feedback.
- Who can congratulate another group or person based on the activity?
- What is a compliment someone could have given to help motivate you more during the activity?
- What were some ways you needed to show trust during the activity? Was it hard to be trusting?Why or why not?

Working together by being kind, caring and listening to others

- How did you plan to use the strengths of the group during this activity in order to be successful?
- What did your group need to do to work together and be successful during this activity?
- Could you have done something differently to work together better? What could you have changed?
- Was there something during the activity that your group disagreed about? If so, how did you work through it?
- How did your group listen to one another and make sure everyone was heard?
- Were there any compromises people had to make in order for your group to be successful? What were they?
- Did you feel listened to during this activity? If so, how and why?
- Who was someone in your group that made a positive difference during the activity? Name some of his/her actions that made the difference.
- If you were to do this activity again, what would you do differently to help the group? Why?