

Emmons School

A Note from the School Counselor
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Character Education Newsletter

April 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

This month at Emmons School, we are working on the character trait of **Cooperation**. **Cooperation** is when two or more people work together to achieve a common goal. **Cooperation** means everyone has to be an active member of the team and do what they agree to do. It is important to teach students to be cooperative so they understand how to work together and get along with others. Guidance lessons this month will focus on the character trait of **cooperation**. Also, this month we acknowledge **Month of the Military Child**, a celebration of our military students and their families and the sacrifices they make. During the week of April 12-16, students will be recognizing the event with a military inspired spirit week! The schedule is below.

People who cooperate...

- Listen well
- Use good manners
- Take responsibility for their actions
- Always play fair
- Help others
- Take turns
- Include everyone
- Do not take all the credit for a shared task
- Work out problems without fighting
- Support each other and celebrate each other's successes
- Consider others' opinions or ideas



Cooperation

Ways to promote cooperation at home...

- Schedule household chores
- Initiate a project that involves all family members (a garden, jigsaw puzzle, cooking, etc.)
- Catch your child cooperating and offer your encouragement
- Volunteer in the community all together as a family

Children's books about cooperation...

1. Horsefly and Honeybee by Randy Cecil
2. Chloe and the Lion by Mac Barnett
3. By Mouse & Frog by Deborah Freedman
4. Swimmy by Leo Lionni
5. Dog vs. Cat by Chris Gall
6. My Friend Rabbit by Eric Rohmann
7. The Little Red Pen by Susan Stevens Crummel and Janet Stevens

Cooperation Games and Activities (that keep social distancing in mind!)

- **Puzzle Outlines:** Tape a long piece of butcher paper to the wall (floor/window/table) and outline various objects in the room on the butcher paper. Make sure to have all types of shapes and sizes for the outlines. Kids take turns searching around the room to try to find an object that matches that outline. Modify as best fits your group. Encourage the kids to cheer for each other as they search. You can color code the shapes according to difficulty and assign certain kids certain colors to avoid frustration. Divide the kids up in teams or have them all work on the same paper. Encourage the children who are not searching at the time to cheer for their peers.
- **Add On:** One piece of paper and everyone with their own marker. The first student draws a simple shape or drawing and then passes it to the peer next to them. That peer then “adds on” to the shape by drawing something else related to that first drawing. That student then passes it to the next person and they do the same. The drawing can go around the circle as many times as the kids like or you can set a time or turn limit on it. You may also want to put a time limit on how long each student has to make their drawing. This can also be done using a white board where kids take turns coming up to the board to add on.
- **Emotion Charades:** Label one jar “emotions” and one jar “actions.” Kids take turns picking one slip of paper from each jar. Make simple actions that are easy to guess as the combination of action and emotion makes it a little more challenging than regular charades. They need to then perform the action they chose while expressing the emotion they chose. The more exaggerated the emotion is, the better!
- **Draw what you hear:** Partner up the kids and have one person be the listener and one the instructor. The instructor will draw a picture and as he or she does, they tell each step to their partner, who cannot see their peer’s paper. For example, “draw a big sun.” The listener cannot ask any clarifying questions and the two papers can have suns in completely different areas of the paper. You can easily do this over zoom as well by the kids taking turns being the speaker and the rest be listeners. In the end, the kids can assess both their listening and speaking skills.
- **What am I?:** Write on an index card different objects or commonly known people for your group (e.g. don’t use “Captain America” if no one in the group knows who that is.) Students get up and ask each other yes or no questions only to try to guess who or what they are. If there are students having trouble give them clues to make sure they don’t get frustrated with the game. Over zoom you can privately assign kids their action and emotions or they can just choose what they want to act out.
- **Race to 100:** This is a fun ice breaker that takes teamwork, cooperation and listening skills. Challenge the class to count to 100 as quickly as possible without two people talking at the same time. Once the game begins, they are only allowed to say the numbers from 1 to 100. If two people talk at the same time they must start over with 1. If the numbers are repeated or said out of order, the counting must start again at 1. It adds an element of competition if you time them or if you set a time limit.
- **20 Questions:** Play a game of 20 questions (or use the number that is the same as the number of students you have so that each person can ask 1 question). Choose 1 person to pick a secret word (nouns usually work best) and have them write it down or tell the teacher. Then challenge the class to work together to figure out what the person is. This will require students to listen to each other's questions, the answers and thinking about related follow-up questions that might help to narrow down the secret word. After everyone has asked a question, then let each student take one guess.

April is Month of The Military Child!

Spirit Week April 12-16

Monday, April 12: Proud to be an American Day-Wear red, white, and blue clothes to honor America!

Tuesday, April 13: Camo Day-Wear camouflage clothes to acknowledge our troops!

Wednesday, April 14: Our Military are our Superheroes Day-Wear your favorite superhero look to honor those who are the serving in the military, our nation's true superheroes!

Thursday, April 15: Purple Up Day-Wear purple to honor Month of the Military Child and all those serving in the military!

Friday, April 16: Stars and Stripes Day- Wear clothing with stars or stripes to honor the American flag!