



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

FAIR BEARS JUSTICE PLAY

Activity Description

This play was created for a grade two culminating activity, but can be used in other grades. Students in a class will present the play after they finish the book (*Fair Bears Learn About Justice*) as part of their class instruction. Students will present the play to an audience of students, parents, or mixed-age groups. When the student actors get to the end of an act, they should stop and discuss the situation with the audience. This works great when delivering the play to a group of students at younger grade levels. This could also be an activity for upper elementary students to perform to younger grades. While it is not necessary, we encourage the use of props, costume, and stage.

Suggested Grade Level

Lower elementary

Estimated Time to Complete

Varies depending on quality of performance

Objectives

Students will

- present the play after they finish the *Foundations of Democracy, Justice* book as part of their class instruction;
- present the play to an audience and lead the audience in discussion.

Materials Needed

- Script (follows)
- Props (optional)
- Costumes (optional)

The Fair Bears Play

A play about justice
adapted from the book
The Fair Bears Learn About Justice

Foundations of Democracy, primary level
Center for Civic Education

Adaptation by
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NOTE:

This play was created for a grade 2 culminating activity. Students in a class will present the play after they finish the book as part of their class instruction. Students will present the play to an audience of students, parents or mixed-age groups. When student actors get to their lines that end with a paw print  they will stop and discuss the situation with the audience and compare and contrast answers from the audience with the student response. This works great when delivering the play to a group of students at younger grade levels. This could also be an activity for upper elementary students to perform to younger grades. While it is not necessary, we encourage the use of props, costume, a stage and all that good stuff kids like to use when acting. At each discussion point, in addition to a student's answer, you could ask them which form of justice the student used in making their response (distributive, procedural or corrective).

(The  means a child's response to the situation.)

CAST

By order of appearance

Narrator

Mama Ramirez

Baby Maria

Roland

Momo

Nettie

Mama Murphy

Teddy

Besil

Pepe

Grandma Murphy

Mama Johnson

Papa Johnson

Teacher (can be the classroom teacher or a student for this role)

Someone

Playground teacher

Girl

Cook

Fair Bears**ACT 1**

Narrator: Once, there were three bear families—the Johnson family, the Ramirez family, and the Murphy family. There were two Johnson children. Their names were Besil and Teddy. In the Ramirez family the children were Pepe and Baby Maria. Mama, Grandma, and three children were in the Murphy family. The children were Momo, Roland, and Nettie.

The bears were not just neighbors. They were all friends. The children played together and went to the same school. The bears shared many things and many adventures.

Mama Ramirez: We are going to have a picnic today. Everyone get ready.

Narrator: The bears wanted Papa Johnson to drive his car. They rode and rode. It seemed they had been in the car a long time. Finally, they came to a good spot for a picnic. There were big shade trees. There was a picnic table. There was a big open area for playing games.

Mama Ramirez: Papa, please help me set the table. Children, you go play.

Narrator: The children jumped and yelled.

Children: Yea! Let's explore!

Narrator: The children ran into the woods. They made a lot of noise.

Baby Maria: Hey, wait for me.

Roland: Mmmm, I wonder what is in this hole?

Narrator: as Roland climbed the tree

Roland: Oh, a beehive! That means honey! It looks like the bees moved away. Yum!

Narrator: Roland remembered his mother's words that you should share with friends. You would want them to share with you.

Roland: Oh, I'm not sure there's enough to share. I love honey. I want it all.

Narrator: Just then he heard Momo calling.

Momo: Roland, where are you? Roland, answer me this minute!

Roland: Do I have to share? What is the fair thing to do?



Guess what I found. Honey, and lots of it.

Nettie: Help me up the tree. I want some, too!

Narrator: Mama Murphy heard the children yelling. She went to see if the children were safe.

Mama Murphy: Nettie! You are not to climb trees. You have to obey the family rules.

Narrator: Mama Murphy was not sure what to do. Nettie broke a family rule.

What is the fair thing to do?



Mama Murphy decided to have a talk with Nettie.

Mama Murphy: Nettie, you're too small to climb trees. We have this rule to keep you safe. You broke the rule. Now, go sit under that tree. You may not play until I call you for lunch.

Narrator: Nettie sat down. She was sad.

She thought to herself, is this fair? 

Momo: Let's play a game.

Teddy: Ring around the tree.

Besil: No! We'll play hide and seek. Everybody go hide.

Teddy: Hmmm. Is it fair that Besil gets to decide what game to play? Wait a minute. We should say what we want to play. Then we can all vote by raising a paw.

Children: Yeah.

Besil: Is that fair?



Fair Bears

ACT 2

Narrator: "It's time for lunch!" someone shouted. Everyone came running. They were hungry for honey. "I want a full paw," someone said.

Pepe: Two for me.

Mama Ramirez: Oh, slow down, children. There's enough honey for everyone.

Grandma Murphy: Let's go pick berries. We can have honey and berries for dessert.

Momo: Look at all the berries I picked. I picked more berries than anyone else.

Grandma Murphy: Everyone picked as many berries as they were able.

Mama Johnson: Pepe, please serve the berries.

Narrator: Pepe passed the bowls all around the table.

Pepe: Papa Johnson, you get a big bowl. Teddy, you get a smaller bowl.
Baby Maria, you get the smallest bowl.

Teddy: Why do I get a smaller bowl? Why don't I get a big bowl like

Papa Johnson? Is that fair? 

Narrator: All the bears enjoyed the berries and honey. It was a perfect dessert for the bears. After lunch, they wanted to play again. Someone said a game of baseball would be fun. They asked Papa Johnson and Mama Murphy to choose the teams.

Mama Murphy: Teddy, you're good at catching balls that fly high in the air. |
You can play left field.

Pepe: Let me play right field. Not many balls are hit there. I'm better at singing than catching balls.

Momo: Roland should be the pitcher. He's really good at it.

Papa Johnson: Okay Roland, you be the pitcher.

Baby Maria: But I want to be pitcher.

Narrator: Baby is too small. She can't throw the ball far enough.

Papa Johnson: When you grow bigger, you can be pitcher. Now, you can lead the cheers.

Baby Maria: Okay. But don't say hooray until I tell you. A home run!
Everybody say hooray.

All: Hooray! Hooray! (clapping their paws)

Narrator: The bears played ball all afternoon. In the end, the score was 5 to 5.

Teddy: It's getting late. Remember, we planned to put on a show before it gets dark.

Narrator: Teddy directed the show. The children practiced very hard. The first act was Pepe and Besil. They sang a song they learned in school.

All: Bravo! Bravo!

Baby Maria: Watch me.

Teddy: Wait! I need to introduce you. The moment that you've all been waiting for! I give you the great and famous acrobat, Baby Maria!

All: Ba-by, Ba-by, Ba-by!

Narrator: Baby was so proud. Everyone stood and cheered when she finished her act. Next, the bears watched Nettie. She did a dance she learned in tap-dance class.

All: Bravo! Bravo!

Narrator: Finally, Roland, Momo, and Nettie did their balancing act. It was fun to watch.

All: Hooray! Hooray!

Teddy: We are happy you liked our ...

Baby Maria: Wait, I want another turn.

Teddy: Baby, you already had your turn. Everyone gets only one turn.

Baby Maria: That's not fair. I got a small bowl of berries. I didn't get to be pitcher. Now, I deserve another turn. That's fair isn't it?

Mama Murphy: Let's get ready to go home. Everyone make sure we don't leave any trash.

Fair Bears

ACT 3

Narrator: The children enjoyed the day in the woods. Monday morning they went back to school. Teddy and Besil were learning to add numbers.

Teddy: Two pots of honey plus two pots of honey are...four pots of honey.

Narrator: Momo was learning to read.

Momo: Once upon a time there were three people. There was a Mama, Papa, and Baby. They lived in a big city.

Narrator: Pepe was learning to write his name.

Pepe: P-e-p-e (he printed)

Narrator: Later, the teacher asked the children to draw pictures.

Besil: Look, my person has yellow fur on her head. I need a green crayon. Give me yours, Momo!

Momo: But, I'm using it.

Besil: (grabbing Momo's crayon) I'll give it back when I'm finished.

Narrator: Besil colored her person green. She pressed too hard and the crayon snapped.

Momo: Besil took my crayon and now she broke it, too.

Narrator: The teacher walked over to the girls. She did not smile at all.

Teacher: What do you think would be the fair thing to do?



Besil: I'm sorry. I promise not to do it again. I'll buy you a new crayon.

Narrator: Momo felt better after Besil said that she was sorry.

Momo: We can take turns using the new crayon. But you'll have to take care not to break it.

Teacher: (smiling) Now, it's time for recess.

Besil: Hey, look. They're playing tetherball.

Narrator: Roland pushed to the front of the line.

Someone: Roland, go to the back of the line. Wait your turn like everyone else.

Children: Yeah, wait your turn!

Playground teacher: What's happening here?

Girl: He cut in line. (pointing to Roland) He won't wait his turn.

Roland: I've waited a long time. Besides, they let me in line.

Children: That's not true.

Playground teacher: This is not the first time you've done this.

Roland: I didn't hurt anyone.

Playground teacher: Do you think you were fair?

What do you think I should do?



Narrator: Roland didn't get a turn at tetherball. He didn't get to play once. He had to sit on the bench all during recess. Roland felt awful. He decided that he would never cut in line again.

Fair Bears

ACT 4

Narrator: Pepe liked school. He liked to study and to learn. He liked working in the lunchroom, too. Of all the jobs, he liked passing out cookies. Sometimes Pepe helped make the cookies.

Cook: Mix the dough well. Don't leave any lumps.

Narrator: Nettie liked to help the cook, too. She and Pepe worked together.

Pepe: One spoonful for each cookie, Nettie.

Nettie: Like this.

Pepe: Uh-huh.

Cook: The cookies are ready to bake. Pepe and Nettie, would you help me clean up?

Pepe and Nettie: Yes. Mmmmm. Those cookies smell so good!

Cook: Finish your work. I'll give each of you a cookie after lunch.

Pepe: Mmmmm. I can't wait!

Narrator: Pepe and Nettie went to work. They cleaned the kitchen until it sparkled. Soon it was time for lunch.

Nettie: I'm hungry! Let's eat!

Pepe: Smell those cookies. (sniffing the air)

Narrator: Just then they heard an angry voice.

Cook: Some cookies are missing! Who took those cookies?

Nettie: I didn't take them.

Pepe: I didn't take them. I just smelled them a little. Well, maybe I smelled them a lot.

Cook: What am I going to do?

Pepe: But we didn't take them. We're innocent.

Cook: What should I do?

What's a fair way to find out who took those cookies?



Narrator: The cook didn't think that the children were to blame. But he wanted to be sure.

Cook: (to Nettie) Do you know anything about the missing cookies?

Nettie: We were together all the time. We never steal.

Cook: Uh-oh, I see that I need to do a little more checking. I'll talk to some of the children in the hall. Oh, look the window's open. Where is Mr. Blue Jay? What has he been up to?

Nettie: Look, under the leaves, the cookies are hidden!

Cook: Heh-heh, it was Mr. Blue Jay. He's been up to his old tricks again.

Pepe: I told you, I just smelled them.

Cook: I'm sorry, Pepe.

Narrator: Then cook smiled and gave Nettie and Pepe each a cookie, as he promised. Then he gave them an extra one because he was sorry that he yelled at them. Pepe was happy. He knew the cook used fair ways to find out who took the missing cookies. After lunch, Pepe and Nettie walked back to their classroom.

Teacher: We are going to choose a class leader.

Momo: I want to be class leader!

Besil: Me too.

Roland: I'll be the class leader.

Teacher: Now, children, not everyone can be the class leader.

What would be a fair way to choose someone?



Nettie: I think that we should all get to pick the class leader.

Teacher: Good idea. Everyone can help decide. We will have a class election.

Narrator: The teacher wrote the three names on the board: Roland, Momo, and Besil.

Teacher: Does anyone else want to be class leader?

Children: No!

Narrator: So the children made speeches. They told why they could be good leaders. Everyone voted. Momo got the most votes. Everyone thought she was a good choice, even those who didn't vote for her. Now Momo would decide what games to play at recess. That was one thing a class leader could do.

Momo: We'll play jump rope.

Pepe: No. Let's play soccer.

Besil: Tetherball.

Momo: Being class leader isn't easy. What should I do?

What is a fair way to decide which game to play?



Narrator: So the young Fair Bears were growing up fast. They learned a lot about being friends and a lot about justice. They learned fair ways to share. They learned fair ways to correct problems. They also learned fair ways to get information and make decisions.

Did you learn these things, too?



The Fair Bear Families were different or "diverse."

How does Justice deal with differences between people?



How can you be "just," meaning justice, with people who are

different?



- The End -