

The Domino Effect

This lesson focuses on our responsible actions and how they affect others. Students will work together to generate a list of ways we each practice responsibility and how it influences others. They will then use dominoes to show how it creates a chain reaction. When someone drops the ball and is irresponsible, others are affected.

Responsibility Sub-Concept(s)

Self-Discipline, Kindness

Lesson Timeframe

25-30 minutes

Required Materials

❑ Dominoes (15 per pair/group)

Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.



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AS A RECOMMENDED PROGRAM
FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.**

See last page for details.

Lesson Objective

Students will be able to:

- Develop a collaborative list of common ways/environments to show responsibility
- Use dominoes to demonstrate an understanding of one-to-one correspondence up to 15

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

Responsibility is defined as being reliable to do the things that are expected and required of you. Oftentimes, we tend to focus on the tasks that affect us personally. I pay my mortgage so I have a place to live. I take care of my body so I will be healthy. This week, focus on the actions you carry through that can and do have an immediate effect on others. What responsibilities do you have in your teaching team, at your school, and within your community? How can you work harder to ensure that others can count on you at all times? The reality is that no one is perfect. Each one of us will drop the ball at some point. How you choose to handle those moments says a great deal about how you view your responsibilities. Take some time this week to examine your response to natural human error. Be kind to yourself and move forward. None of us is perfect!

Tips for Diverse Learners

- Provide number cards as a visual representation during the domino counting.
- Draw a simple picture next to common words used in the brainstorming session.
- Pair students up during the domino activity to help with poor dexterity.



Share

5 minutes

As a class, take a quick tour of the cubbies/coat rack area. Look for signs of self-discipline and responsibility using your desk. (Make sure to have areas that demonstrate self-discipline as well as areas that could use improvement)

- What are some ways I, as the teacher, have practiced self-discipline (my desk is organized, the papers are sorted, etc.) What are some areas that need a little more attention? (make sure to have at least one area)

We can help each other choose responsible actions as we start and end our day in this area of our classroom!



Inspire

How are We Responsible?

10-12 minutes

Explain that each of us makes responsible choices every day, all day long! We chose to get up today. We chose to get on the bus and come to school. We chose to learn. We chose to be kind to our classmates and teacher. When we treat others with kindness and respect we are acting responsibly. Let's work together to create a giant list of all the ways we have shown responsibility in our day so far.

Divide your whiteboard into 3 categories- Students, Teacher, People at Home (Parents/Families, Guardians, etc.)

- Ask the following questions for each category- How did you (the teacher, parents, etc.) show responsibility this morning?
- Students- Get up on time, make bed, clean up after breakfast, treat others kindly on the bus, listen to the teacher, etc.
- Teacher- Dressed appropriately for work, packed lunch, planned for school, set up classroom, made copies for math, etc.
- People at home/parents- Woke up children, went to work, ate breakfast, followed rules when driving, obeyed boss, etc. (Make sure your list has at least 15 items altogether)

All of these actions demonstrate responsibility. All of us work together, each person doing their part. It is very important to follow through on your responsibilities.



Empower

20 minutes

Students will use a math activity to illustrate the importance of following through on their responsibilities.

Divide the students up into pairs or groups of three. Pass out 15-20 dominoes for each group.

Explain that each domino represents a responsible choice that someone made today. Let's see how all of our responsible choices build up and create a positive chain of responsibility.

- Read off each responsible choice written down during the brainstorming session.
- As you read it, have each group line up a domino.
- You will need to demonstrate how to line up the dominoes so they create a chain.
- Read at least 15 choices so every group has a nice long domino chain in front of them.
- Explain that dominoes will fall down during this activity. That's ok! This represents our forgetfulness at times.
- Sometimes we fall down. Sometimes we forget to do the things we said we would do. However, we can always be honest about our forgetfulness and go back and try again. Make sure to pick up those fallen dominoes. They deserve a second chance too!
- We all have days where it feels like everything is going wrong (like a lot of dominoes are falling!). During these times, we can use perseverance to help us to keep trying. You have a choice to get back up, brush yourself off, and try to make responsible choices next time!
- Circulate around to pairs/groups as they finish. Have them each count the number of responsible choices made today. This can serve as an evaluation for one-to-one correspondence counting up to 20 if needed.



Reflect

5-10 minutes

Have your class gather in your circle time/community area. Review the importance of completing our personal responsibilities and how it affects others around us.

- What would happen if you always forgot to feed your dog?
- What would happen if I didn't make enough copies for our math lesson?
- How can we fix things when we do forget?



Extension Ideas

- Evaluate for addition and subtraction knowledge using the dominoes. Remove or add dominoes and have students create number bonds to show the new amounts.



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LEARNING.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs.

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>