

Community Building Activities

Devoting time during the first weeks of school to focus on building a sense of community in the classroom is essential. Take a look at the following tips to build community in your classroom.

Get to Know One Another

Take time to get to know one another with surveys that encourage students to share their favorite things. Feel free to use this [K-2 survey](#) or [3-5 survey](#) as an independent activity and encourage students to come together to share their responses as a group.

Take Brain Breaks

Taking breaks throughout the day while keeping students engaged is so much easier with [SEL Video Activities](#). My class loves [Relax and Explore](#), a digital nature walk that helps students learn relaxation techniques, especially if they need to settle down after recess or a lively activity.

Focus on SEL

The SEL-focused lesson plans within [Meaningful Conversations](#) and the accompanying Teacher Toolkit are invaluable for building community and teaching students how to have discussions, build empathy, and help students feel seen and understood. While the [You Are Marvelous](#) collection is for K-1, the lyrics in the *Self Esteem for Kids* song are catchy and positive and can be a great mantra for older students as well.

GRADES K-2

Read Aloud - [Laws for Kids](#)

Guiding question - How does following rules help us create a strong classroom community?

Read Aloud - [I Did Not Give Up!](#)

Guiding question - How do people create strong communities?

Read Aloud - [Taking Turns](#)

Guiding question - Why is waiting your turn important in our classroom community?

Read Aloud - [Are You Okay?](#)

Guiding question - What is a cause and an effect?

Read Aloud - [The Golden Rule](#)

Guiding question - Why should we treat each other with kindness?

GRADES 3-5

Video Activity - [What Do You Have to Say?](#)

Guiding question - How can you use your voice to help create a strong community?

Read Aloud - [Mike Van Zee, Special Olympian](#)

Guiding question - How does perseverance help your community?

Read Aloud - [Friends Save The Day](#)

Guiding question - How did the students begin creating a strong community?

Read Aloud - [SPRAK!](#)

Guiding question - Why should we treat each other with kindness?

Read Aloud - [Delores Huerta](#)

Guiding question - How do people work together to create a strong community?

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