



The New Player — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–4 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills

Objective: Students will practice welcoming and including others and understand that new perspectives strengthen any group.

Essential Question: *"What changes when ONE person decides to include you?"*

Materials: The personalized story, Welcome card materials, Name tags or team badges, Paper and crayons

Vocabulary: New, Include, Welcome, Belong, Team, Nervous, Invisible, Reach out, Role, Perspective

ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Ask: "Raise your hand if you've ever been the new kid somewhere." Then: "Raise your hand if you've ever SEEN a new kid and weren't sure what to say." Discuss both sides.

DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Pause at the "invisible" moment. Pause when the teammate reaches out. Emphasize: inclusion is a CHOICE, and one person is enough to change everything.

GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Inclusion Circle activity. Discuss: how did it feel to be outside vs. welcomed in?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Create a welcome card for a new student. Write: "I remember being new, and what helped me was ____."

CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Share cards. Commit: "This week I will include someone by ____." Start a class welcome buddy system.

ASSESSMENT

Observe inclusion behavior during circle activity. Review welcome cards. Exit ticket: "What can you do when you see someone feeling invisible?"

DIFFERENTIATION

Support: Provide card templates with prompts. Partner students for the inclusion circle reflection.

Extend: Design a "New Student Welcome Kit" for the school. Write a guide: "How to Be the One Who Includes."

HOME CONNECTION

Send home a welcome card template. Ask families to discuss: "When were you the new person? Who helped you belong?"
