



When You Were Little — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–3 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Social Awareness

Objective: Students will practice empathy across time, discovering that feelings are universal even when the world looks different.

Essential Question: *"What stays the same no matter how much the world changes?"*

Materials: The personalized story, Old vs. new picture cards, Paper and crayons, Optional: old photos from families

Vocabulary: Past, Memory, Childhood, Generation, Same, Different, Connect, History, Empathy, Time

ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Show a photo of a rotary phone. Ask: "What IS this?" Then show a smartphone. "Same job, different tool." Ask: "What else changes on the outside but stays the same on the inside?"

DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Pause at differences (wow, no internet!). Pause at similarities (they were nervous about school TOO!). Emphasize: feelings are the timeless thread.

GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Then & Now Cards matching game. Discuss: what NEED stays the same?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Draw "Same Feelings, Different Times" scenes. Write: "Kids then and kids now both feel ____."

CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Share one thing you learned about the past. Take home interview questions for a real elder conversation.

ASSESSMENT

Review drawings for understanding of universal feelings. Check interview questions. Exit ticket: "Name one thing that's the same about kids then and kids now."

DIFFERENTIATION

Support: Provide Then & Now picture cards to sort. Use drawing instead of writing.

Extend: Research a decade (1960s, 1970s) and present: "What was the same? What was different?"

HOME CONNECTION

Send home interview question cards. Ask families to share one childhood story and one old photo.
