
The Big Game — Lesson Plan

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

Objective: Students will understand that teamwork, encouragement, and sportsmanship matter more than the scoreboard.

Essential Question: *"What makes a REAL winner — the score or how you played?"*

Materials: The personalized story, Ball or beanbag for team activities, Paper and crayons, Whistle (optional)

Vocabulary: Teamwork, Sportsmanship, Halftime, Effort, Trust, Huddle, Cheer, Assist, Opponent, Heart

ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Quick poll: "What's more important — winning the game or your team having fun together?" Discuss.

DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Pause at the mistakes — normalize them. Pause at halftime — discuss the coach's words. Pause at the pass. Emphasize: the hero chose the TEAM over personal glory.

GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Team Pass Challenge: pass with encouragement. Compare to silent passing. Discuss: which team played better?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Write your own halftime speech for a struggling team. Draw the moment you'd be most proud of.

CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Sportsmanship Awards: nominate classmates. Share: "Being a good teammate means ____."

ASSESSMENT

Observe encouragement during Team Pass Challenge. Review halftime speeches. Exit ticket: "Name one thing more important than winning."

DIFFERENTIATION

Support: Provide sentence starters for encouragement. Pair students during team activities.

Extend: Write a sports story where the hero wins by helping a teammate. Create a "Good Sport" handbook.

HOME CONNECTION

Send home a "Sportsmanship Spotter" card. Families look for sportsmanship moments during the week.
