

Lesson: K-3 Entrepreneurship

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Lesson Title: Traits of Entrepreneurs

Career Standard: 13.4.3 Entrepreneurship

Objectives:

SW recognize that there are many career options available to them, some of which have not yet been created.

SW understand the role of a business owner and learn the vocabulary term entrepreneur.

SW describe work habits that help business owners to be successful (flexibility, positive attitude, risk-taker, leader, good communicator, etc.).

SW create a list of ideas for business opportunities that exist for young entrepreneurs such as themselves.

Equipment/Learning Materials Needed:

Once Upon a Company by Wendy Anderson Halperin, large index cards, pens or pencils, chart paper

Preparation:

Before you complete this lesson, students should have already learned about a variety of careers and business opportunities through the use of the Paws in Jobland™ website, or through business owners visiting the classroom and discussing their career with the students.

Anticipatory Set:

Ask students to turn to a partner and tell them what they think they might want to do as a career when they grow up. Tell the story of how you decided that you wanted to be a teacher, and mention other career choices that you considered, or jobs that you held in the past. Ask students if they know anyone who owns a business. Share and discuss. Ask students if they know a child who has operated their own business. Share and discuss.

Procedure:

1. Read the book Once Upon a Company to the students. It is a narrative non-fiction picture book, written from a child's perspective, about the launching and growth of their own Christmas wreath company. This book introduces and explains a variety of business and career related vocabulary. Discuss the vocabulary and concepts while reading.
2. Discuss the book. Have students brainstorm a list of possible business opportunities that could exist for young entrepreneurs.
3. Ask students to brainstorm a list of character traits that a business owner must have in order to be successful. Write their ideas on chart paper. If students have difficulty coming up with examples, refer them to the actions of the children in the picture book shared earlier in the lesson.
4. Explain to the students that today they are going to develop one of the skills necessary for business owners of all ages: clear and effective communication.
5. Play "Blind Artist" by asking students to draw a simple design or picture on their index card. They should not share their simple picture with anyone else. Assign each student a partner. Have the partners sit back to back in chairs or on the floor. Each student should take a turn communicating simple steps to their partner, in an effort to have their partner duplicate their design or picture. The students should attempt to draw their partner's picture on the back of their index card. When communicating steps to their partner, they may not explicitly tell their partner what to draw. They should give them small steps that will lead them to the bigger picture or design.
6. Share out the results of the activity. Compliment the students on specific examples of successful communication that was witnessed and overheard during the activity.

Closure/Extension:

Have each student thank their partner, and give their partner specific positive feedback about a portion of their communication that they found to be effective.

Post the chart of character traits for business owners in the classroom. Develop a book basket that includes picture books that highlight more traits that business owners need to be successful. As students read the books in the baskets, encourage them to add to chart they created.