

Ollie the Owl Learns About Empathy

Lesson Objective:

Students will learn about empathy, understanding others' feelings, and how to show kindness and support to their friends.

Materials Needed:



- The story “Ollie the Owl Learns About Empathy”
- The song “Ollie the Owl Learns Empathy”
- Ollie’s Wise Choices Poster
- Paper and pencils, crayons and markers
- Activity 1- Empathy Hearts Handout
- Activity 2- Empathy Charades Cards
- Home Connection Letter

Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Greeting Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle (if applicable)
- Briefly discuss the concept of empathy.

Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script

1. Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:

- "Good morning, friends! Today, we’re going to learn about something very important called *empathy*. Can everyone say ‘empathy’ with me?"
- Wait for the children to respond.

2. Discussion Starter

- "Great job! Empathy means we understand how someone else is feeling, and we care about their feelings. Have you ever seen someone who was sad or upset? What did you do to help them feel better?"
- (Encourage a few children to share their experiences.)
- Teacher:
"Those are all wonderful ways to help! Today, we’re going to hear a story about Ollie the Owl and how he learned to show empathy to his friends."

Read the Story (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



- Read the story “Ollie the Owl Learns About Empathy” aloud to the class
- Ask questions during key parts in the story.

Story Time Teacher Script:

1. Prepare the Students for the Story:

- a. “Today, we’re going to hear a story about Ollie the Owl and how he learned to show empathy to his friends. Listen carefully and think about how Ollie shows he cares about his friends.”
- b. (Read the story aloud, pausing at key moments to ask questions and engage the children.)

2. Read the story with an emphasis on key moments:

While reading, pause during key moments to ask the following questions:.

- **Why do you think Sammy Squirrel is feeling sad?**
 - Encourage children to recognize emotions and understand Sammy’s perspective.
- **How would you feel if you lost something important, like Sammy’s acorn?**
 - Help kids connect to the character’s feelings by imagining themselves in a similar situation.
- **Why does Ollie decide to help Sammy find his acorn?**
 - Guide children to understand the importance of kindness and empathy.
- **How do you think Sammy felt when Ollie helped him find the acorn?**
 - Encourage students to think about how small acts of kindness can make others feel better.
- **Why does Betty the Beaver look tired?**
 - Ask the children to notice Betty’s feelings and what might have caused them.
- **What does Ollie do when he sees Betty is struggling?**
 - Reinforce the idea that empathy means helping others when they need support.
- **How do you think Betty feels when Ollie helps her?**
 - Encourage kids to recognize how gratitude and teamwork can bring happiness.
- **Why is Buzz the Bee feeling lost and afraid?**
 - Help children understand how being lost can be scary and how we can comfort others.

- **What does Ollie do to help Buzz feel better?**
 - Show how understanding someone's fear can lead to kind actions.
- **What do you think Ollie is learning from helping his friends?**
- Encourage children to think about the lesson of empathy and how helping others makes us feel good.

Ollie the Owl Learns About Empathy

In a forest green and bright,
Lived Ollie the Owl, with wings so light.
With feathers soft and eyes so wide,
He loved to play and often glide.

One day, as Ollie soared so high,
He heard a sob, a little cry.
He found Sammy Squirrel, looking so sad,
And wondered why he felt so bad.

"Sammy," said Ollie, "what's wrong today?
Why do you look so blue and gray?"
Sammy sniffled and gave a sigh,
"My acorn's lost, I want to cry."

Ollie thought of how he'd feel,
If his favorite toy took a spill.
He felt a tug within his heart,
And knew just how to do his part.

"Sammy," said Ollie, "I understand,
Let's find your acorn in this land."
They searched the forest, near and far,
And found the acorn, with a happy spar.

Sammy smiled, his tears all gone,

"Ollie, you helped, you made me strong.
You understood just how I felt,
Your empathy made my heart melt."

Ollie felt warm, a glow inside,
Helping others filled him with pride.
He learned that empathy, so true,
Helps others feel better, through and through.

Next, he saw Betty the Beaver,
Looking tired, like she had a fever.
"Betty," asked Ollie, "what's wrong with you?
You seem so tired and feeling blue."

Betty sighed and said, "I've worked all day,
Building my dam in a special way.
But now I'm tired, I need a rest,
It's hard to do my very best."

Ollie thought of how he'd feel,
If he were tired and had to kneel.
"I understand, dear Betty friend,
Let me help you till the end."



They worked together, side by side,
With Ollie's help, Betty's joy did glide.
She smiled wide, her heart so light,
"Ollie, your empathy made things right."

Ollie felt proud, he knew it's true,
Empathy helps in all we do.
By understanding how others feel,
We show we care, and hearts can heal.

Then Ollie found Buzz the Bee,
Buzzing sadly around a tree.
"Buzz," asked Ollie, "why so blue?
What can I do to help you through?"

Buzz buzzed low and said, "Oh dear,
I lost my way, I have some fear.
I can't find my hive, it's hard to see,
I'm feeling lost, please help me."

Ollie thought of how he'd be,
If he were lost, just like the bee.
"I understand, dear Buzz, let's fly,

I'll help you find your home nearby."
They flew together, high and low,
Finding the hive where flowers grow.
Buzz buzzed with joy, "Ollie, you're kind,
Your empathy helped me not feel blind."

Ollie learned, with every friend,
That empathy helps hearts to mend.
By feeling others' joy and pain,
We spread kindness like gentle rain.

So remember Ollie, wise and bright,
Who learned about empathy's light.
By understanding how others feel,
We show our love, and hearts can heal.

Ollie the Owl, with heart so true,
Found empathy in all he'd do.
With every friend, both near and far,
He spread kindness like a shining star.

3. Post-Story Teacher Script

- "Ollie learns that trying to understand how his friends feel is an important part of friendship."

4. Post-Story Questions

Ask these questions to help students reflect on the story and connect it to their own experiences:

- What does the word "empathy" mean? Can you explain it in your own words?
 - Reinforce understanding of the story's main theme.
- How do you think Ollie felt after helping his friends? Why?



- Discuss the feeling of pride and joy that comes from helping others.
- Can you think of a time when someone helped you when you were sad or needed help?
How did it make you feel?
 - Encourage students to share personal experiences with empathy.
- What are some ways we can show empathy to our friends at school?
 - Help children apply the lesson to their own lives.
- Why is it important to think about how someone else is feeling before we act?
 - Teach the importance of awareness and thoughtful actions.
- Ollie helped Sammy, Betty, and Buzz in different ways. Can you remember how he helped each one?
 - Check comprehension by reviewing key moments in the story.
- If you see someone feeling sad or lonely, what could you do to show empathy?
 - Encourage kids to think of kind actions they can take in real life.
- Why do you think helping others can make us feel happy, just like Ollie felt proud?
 - Help children understand that kindness benefits both the giver and receiver.
- How would the story be different if Ollie didn't help his friends?
 - Encourage kids to think about the impact of both action and inaction.
- If you could tell Ollie one thing about what he learned, what would you say to him?
 - Let children reflect on the story's lesson and express their thoughts in their own way.

Sing the Song (10 minutes)



- Teach the children the “Ollie the Owl Learns Empathy” song
- Sing the song together a few times, encouraging the children to join the actions.

“Now, let’s sing a fun song about empathy! This song will remind us to care for others and try to understand how they feel. Let’s learn the words and some fun hand actions!”

“Ollie the Owl Learns Empathy” Song

Hand Movements

Verse 1:

Ollie the Owl in a tall oak tree

Looking down sees a world of dreams

Big wide eyes wanna know it all

Shade eyes with hand and look around



Life below seems so very small

[Verse 2]

One night hears a little mouse cry
Tiny voice reaching up to the sky
Ollie swoops down soft as the breeze
Mouse's tears fall like autumn leaves

Flap arms

[Chorus]

Feel the hurt in someone's heart
Let their pain become your part
Ollie learns to understand
Empathy's a helping hand

Place hands over heart

[Verse 3]

Mouse tells Ollie about the fear
Losing friends nobody near
Ollie listens with open wings
Shares a warmth only kindness brings

Flap arms

[Chorus]

Feel the hurt in someone's heart
Let their pain become your part
Ollie learns to understand
Empathy's a helping hand

Hold hands out, palms up

[Bridge]

Late at night now side by side
Ollie and Mouse in the moonlight hide
Life is brighter when we care
Hearts together, a love we share

Shape hands into a heart

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

- Students will practice ways they can show empathy to others.



Please choose from the following 2 activities:

Activity 1: Empathy Hearts (15 minutes)



1. Introduce Activity

"Now, we're going to make something very special—*Empathy Hearts*! These hearts will remind us to show empathy and kindness to our friends and family."

"Here's how we make them: You'll each get a heart to decorate with drawings or kind words. On your heart, you can draw or write ways you can show empathy. For example, you could draw yourself helping a friend or giving someone a hug."

- **Activity Instructions**

(Distribute materials and assist children as they work on their hearts.)

Teacher (while they work):

"Who can share a way they might show empathy to a friend? How would it feel if someone helped you when you were sad or upset?"

Encourage discussion as they create their Empathy Hearts.

Encourage them to write or draw ways they can show empathy to others on their hearts.

Display the Empathy Hearts on a bulletin board or around the classroom.



Activity 2: Empathy Charades (15 minutes)

- **Introduce Activity**

"Now, we're going to play a game called *Empathy Charades*! In this game, you'll act out a situation where someone needs empathy, and the rest of us will guess what's happening and how we can help."



"Here's how it works: You can select an Empathy Charades card and you'll act out the situation without using words. The rest of us will try to guess what's happening and how we can show empathy."

(Guide the children as they act out their scenes and if necessary, read the card to them)

Teacher (after each turn):

"Great job! What are some ways we could show empathy in that situation?"

- **Activity Instructions**

Materials:

Copy and cut out the Empathy Charades Cards for the class to play the game.

- A friend drops their lunch tray and looks sad.
 - Help them pick up the food and offer to share your lunch.
- A classmate is new and doesn't know anyone.
 - Invite them to play or sit with you during lunch.
- A friend didn't get picked for a game and feels left out.
 - Suggest a new game where everyone can join.
- A sibling is feeling scared during a thunderstorm.
 - Sit with them and talk to help them feel safe.
- A friend is upset because they miss their parents.
 - Give them a hug and talk about something fun to cheer them up.
- A friend didn't do well on a test and feels disappointed.
 - Encourage them by saying everyone has tough days and offer to study together next time.
- A classmate's toy broke, and they are crying.
 - Offer to help fix the toy or share your toy with them.
- A pet is sick and needs to rest.
 - Sit quietly by their side and gently pet them to provide comfort.
- A friend is having a hard time tying their shoes.
 - Offer to teach them how to tie their shoes or help them until they learn.
- A friend is worried about a doctor's visit.
 - Share your experience and reassure them that it will be okay.
- A friend is alone on the playground looking sad.
 - Walk over and ask if they want to play with you.

- A classmate spilled paint on their artwork and looks upset.
 - Tell them it's okay, and help them make a new picture together.
- Your little brother or sister is crying because they lost their favorite toy.
 - Help them look for it and give them a big hug while you search.
- A friend is nervous about trying something new, like climbing the slide.
 - Cheer them on and offer to go first to show them it's safe.
- A friend is cold and shivering outside during recess.
 - Offer to play a running game to help them warm up or walk them to the teacher for help.
- A classmate got hurt and is sitting on the bench with a scraped knee.
 - Sit beside them and ask if they need help or want to hold your hand until the teacher comes.

These examples will help children understand and act out different scenarios where empathy is needed, reinforcing the lesson about understanding and supporting others.

- Have each child pick a card and act out the scenario while the others guess and discuss how they would show empathy in that situation.

Wrap Up the Lesson (5 minutes)

1. Review and Reflection Overview:

- Review what they learned about understanding empathy
- Ask a few children to share how empathy can help with friendships.

Review and Reflection Teacher Script

1. Gather in a Circle for Reflection:



"Let's all gather back in a circle. Today, we learned so much about empathy. Who can tell me one thing they learned about showing empathy?"

2. Closing

- "That's right! Empathy means we try to understand how someone feels and help them. We practiced showing empathy by making our hearts and



playing charades. When we care about others, we make our world a kinder and happier place."

"I am so proud of all of you for learning how to show empathy today. Let's remember to use empathy every day, whether we're at school, at home, or playing with friends."

Home Connection Letter

1. Sending Information Home:

- "Before you go, I have a special letter for you to take home to your parents. It talks about everything we learned today about empathy and how you can practice it at home. Be sure to tell your family about the story, the song, and the game we played!"

- Hand out the letters as the children prepare to leave.

Parent Letter

Sending Information Home:

- Provide each child with a letter to take home to their parents explaining the lesson



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today in class, we learned about the importance of empathy through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns About Empathy." This story teaches children how to understand others' feelings and show kindness and support.

Here's what we learned:

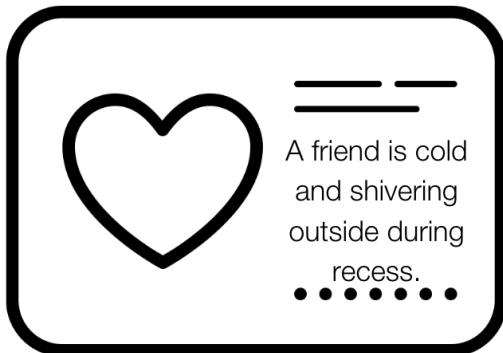
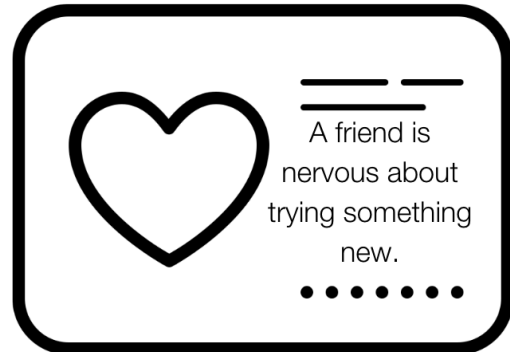
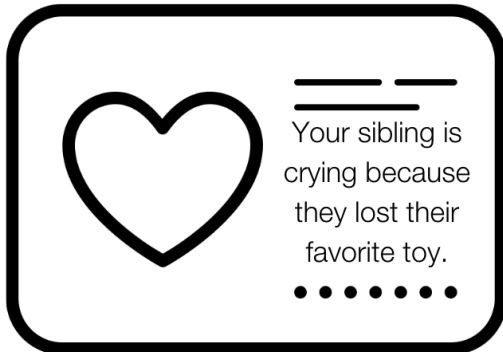
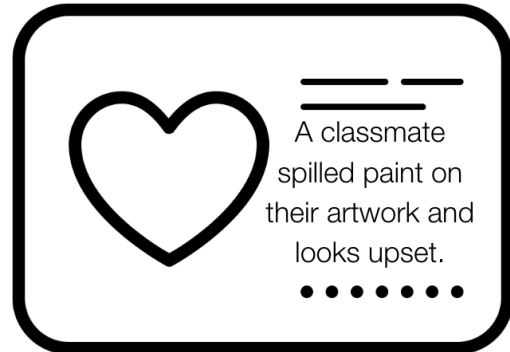
- Understanding Empathy: Recognizing what empathy means and how it feels.
- Showing Empathy: Learning different ways to show empathy to friends and family.
- Practicing Empathy: Engaging in activities that help express and practice empathy.


We practiced these concepts through making "Empathy Hearts" and playing "Empathy Charades." You can help reinforce this at home by encouraging your child to talk about how they can show empathy and by discussing times when they or others have shown empathy.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,







A friend drops their lunch tray and looks sad.



A classmate is new and doesn't know anyone.




A sibling is feeling scared during a thunderstorm.



A friend didn't get picked for a game and feels left out.



A friend didn't do well on a test and feels disappointed.



A friend is upset because they miss their parents.



A classmate's toy broke, and they are crying.



A pet is sick and needs to rest.

