

Ollie the Owl Says Yes to Good Ideas

Lesson Objective:

Students will learn about the importance of being open to new ideas and working together through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns to Say Yes to Good Ideas."

Materials Needed:



- The story "Ollie the Owl Says Yes to Good Ideas"
- The song "Ollie the Owl Says Yes to Good Ideas"
- Ollie's Wise Choices Poster
- Paper and pencils, crayons and markers, stapler/glue stick
- Activity 1-Puppet Role-Play
- Activity 2-Ideas Exchange Game
- Home Connection Letter

Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Greeting Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle (if applicable)
- Briefly talk about what it means to be open to new ideas and why it's important to listen to others' suggestions.
- Introduce the concept of teamwork and how working together with new ideas can be fun and beneficial.

Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script

- **Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:**
 - "Good morning, friends! Today, we're going to talk about being open to new ideas and how fun it can be to say 'yes' to other people's ideas, just like our friend Ollie the Owl."
 - "When we're open to others' ideas, we can try new things together. Have you ever tried someone else's idea and found it was really fun? Maybe playing a new game or doing a new activity?"
 - "Would anyone like to share a time when they tried a friend's idea? Or maybe an idea of your own that someone else said yes to?"

Pause to allow a few children to share and validate their responses.

Read the Story (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



- Read the story *Ollie the Owl Says Yes to Good Ideas* aloud to the class
- Engage the children by asking questions during key parts of the story

Story Time Teacher Script:

1. Prepare the Students for the Story:

- a. "Now, we're going to hear a story about Ollie the Owl and how he learned to say yes to good ideas. Let's see what Ollie discovers when he listens to his friends' ideas."
- b. (Read the story aloud, pausing at key moments to ask questions and engage the children.)

2. Read the Chapter with Emphasis on Key Moments:

- **While reading**, pause during key moments.
- **Ask Questions:**
 - What did Ollie the Owl like to do at the beginning of the story?
 - What did Benny the Bear suggest they do together?
 - What did Ollie do when Benny shared his idea?
 - What did Harriet the Hare want to do?
 - How did Ollie feel after he joined in singing?
 - What kind of game did Buzz the Bee want to play?
 - What was Ollie planning to do instead of playing Buzz's game?
 - What idea did Betty the Beaver have?
 - What did Ollie say when Betty invited them to a picnic?
 - What did Ollie learn by the end of the story?

Ollie the Owl Says Yes to Good Ideas

In a forest tall and green,
Lived Ollie the Owl, so wise and keen.
With feathers soft and eyes so bright,
He loved to hoot both day and night.

Ollie liked to think and plan,
He often said, "I have a grand plan!"
But one day, his friends came to play,
And Ollie learned something new that day.

Benny the Bear had an idea so bright,
"Let's build a fort, it'll be a delight!"
Ollie thought, "But I had plans too,"
Then remembered, new ideas can be good too.

"Okay, Benny, let's give it a try,
Your idea might reach the sky!"
They gathered sticks and built so high,
A cozy fort beneath the sky.
Ollie smiled, feeling glad,
Saying yes to Benny's idea wasn't so bad.
He learned that friends have good ideas too,
And working together is fun to do.

Next, Harriet the Hare hopped along,
"I have an idea, let's sing a song!"
Ollie thought, "But I had plans to read."
Then realized, singing was what they all might need.

"Sure, Harriet, let's sing with cheer,
Your idea sounds great, my dear!"
They sang together, a joyful sound,
With music and laughter all around.

Ollie felt a warmth inside,
Accepting ideas with friends by his side.

He learned that others' thoughts were bright,
And saying yes felt just right.

Then Buzz the Bee buzzed by so quick,
"Let's play a game, a game of pick!"
Ollie thought, "But I wanted to draw."
Then decided Buzz's idea wasn't a flaw.

"Great idea, Buzz, let's play your game,
I'm sure it will be just the same!"
They picked and played, with joy so true,
Ollie learned new games to do.

Betty the Beaver had an idea so sweet,
"Let's have a picnic, a tasty treat!"
Ollie thought, "But I planned to fly,"
Then said yes with a happy sigh.

"Let's do it, Betty, a picnic's great,
Your idea's something we should celebrate!"
They shared their food beneath the trees,
With laughter carried by the breeze.

Ollie felt proud, his heart so light,
Saying yes to others felt just right.
He learned that friends have ideas too,
And sharing thoughts was fun to do.

So remember, Ollie, wise and kind,
With an open heart and an open mind.
Say yes to ideas, bright and new,
And see what wonderful things come through.

Ollie the Owl, with friends so dear,
Learned that good ideas are always near.
By saying yes and working together,
They made the forest better than ever.

3. Post-Chapter Teacher Script

“Ollie’s story taught us that listening to others and trying new ideas can lead to fun, learning, and stronger friendships. Even when we have our own plans, saying ‘yes’ to someone else’s idea shows kindness and teamwork. When we work together and stay open-minded—just like Ollie—we can make wonderful things happen.”

4. Post-Chapter Questions

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

- Why do you think Ollie had a hard time saying yes to his friends' ideas at first?
- How did Ollie’s feelings change when he said yes to his friends’ suggestions?
- Why is it important to listen to other people’s ideas?
- How can working together make something more fun?
- Have you ever tried someone else’s idea and ended up liking it?
- What would happen if Ollie only ever wanted to do *his* plans?
- How did Ollie show kindness to his friends in the story?
- What can you do if a friend suggests something new and you're not sure about it?
- Which of Ollie’s adventures (fort, singing, game, picnic) sounded like the most fun to you? Why?
- What do you think the forest would be like if everyone shared and tried new ideas like Ollie did?

Sing the Song (10 minutes)



- Teach the children the *Ollie the Owl Says Yes to Good Ideas* song
- Sing the song together a few times, encouraging the children to join the actions.

"Now, we're going to sing a fun song about saying yes to good ideas and working as a team, just like Ollie!"

"Ollie the Owl Says Yes to Good Ideas"

Hand Movements

[Verse]

Ollie the Owl flies so high
Thinks he's always right in the sky
Wise but stubborn in his way
Time to learn a new thing today

Flap hands
Point to head

[Verse 2]

Friends gathered near for some fun
Sharing ideas one by one
Ollie watched with curious eyes
Time to give them a good try

Hold up one finger
Thumbs up

[Chorus]

Ollie Ollie say yes to good ideas
Ollie Ollie, start to cheer
Ollie Ollie, it's okay to agree
Let's all shout with glee

Knod head
Thumbs up

[Verse 3]

Benny the Bear runs around
"Let's play a game down on the ground."
Ollie thought, "Well, this could be neat
I'll try it now, it won't be a feat."

Turn around in a circle

[Bridge]

Different minds with different thoughts
Learning together means lots
Ollie saw the fun they had
Saying yes made him glad

Link arms
Knod head

[Verse 4]

Sammy the Squirrel said, "Let's climb trees, Pretend to climb
Collecting nuts in the breeze"
Ollie nodded, gave it a whirl
Adventures with every boy and girl

Song Wrap-up

"This song will really help to remind us to try others' solutions and say yes to good ideas."

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

- Students will take turns practicing being open to new ideas and working together.

Please choose from the following 2 activities:



Activity 1: Puppet Role-play (15 minutes)

Introduce Activity

- "Now, we'll use puppets to act out how Ollie and his friends learned to try each other's ideas. Each of you will have a turn to make the puppets say yes to good ideas!"

Activity Instructions

Scenario 1: The Rainy Day Plan

- Ollie wants to read books inside, but Harriet the Hare suggests they build a blanket fort instead.

Challenge: Ollie must decide whether to stick with his plan or try Harriet's creative idea.

Sample script for role-play scenario 1:

"It was a rainy day in the forest. Ollie the Owl had a cozy plan—he wanted to read his favorite books all morning."

Ollie the Owl:

(fluttering into the room)

"I'm so excited! I brought my books. Rainy days are perfect for reading!"

Harriet the Hare:

(hopping in, excited)

"Ollie! I have a great idea—let's build a blanket fort and pretend it's a forest castle!"

Ollie the Owl:

(pausing)

"Hmmm... I really wanted to read. I was looking forward to my books..."

Harriet the Hare:

"We can still read *inside* the fort! And we can invite our friends too!"

Ollie the Owl:

(smiling)

"You know what, Harriet? That *does* sound fun. Let's build the fort together first—then I can read inside it!"

Narrator (Teacher):

"Ollie listened to his friend's idea and gave it a try. Soon, they were laughing and reading in their cozy blanket fort, happy they worked together."

Ollie the Owl:

(content)

"I'm glad I said yes to your idea, Harriet. It made the day even better!"

Harriet the Hare:

“Thanks for listening, Ollie. I’m glad we shared our ideas!”

Wrap-Up Prompt (Teacher):

“What did Ollie do to show he was a good friend? Why is it important to listen to other people’s ideas?”

Let the students role-play the remaining scenarios

Scenario 2: Choosing a Game

- During recess, Ollie wants to play tag, but Buzz the Bee wants to play a quiet puzzle game.
Challenge: Ollie has to listen and decide if he can be flexible and give Buzz’s idea a try.
-

Scenario 3: Decorating the Classroom Tree

- Everyone is picking decorations. Ollie wants to use only stars, but Benny the Bear wants to add paper chains and drawings.
Challenge: Ollie has to listen to everyone’s suggestions and help include all ideas.
-

Scenario 4: Music Time Mix-Up

- Ollie wants to sing his favorite song again, but Betty the Beaver suggests trying a new one with instruments.
Challenge: Ollie must listen and decide if trying something new could be fun for the whole group.
-

Scenario 5: Planning the Picnic

- Ollie wants to eat under the big oak tree, but Sammy the Squirrel suggests the sunny meadow.

Challenge: Ollie needs to listen and help the group decide together where to go.

Wrap Up

- “How did it feel for Ollie to say yes to a new idea?”
- “What would you do if your friend had a fun idea to try?”

Allow students to share their experiences.

“Ollie showed us that when we take time to listen to our friends’ ideas, we might discover something new, fun, or even better than what we planned. Working together and being open to others helps us learn, play, and grow as friends. Just like Ollie, we can all practice saying ‘yes’ to new ideas with an open heart and a kind mind.”



Activity 2: Idea Exchange Game (15 minutes)

1. Introduce Activity

"Everyone, let's sit together in a big circle on the floor. Today we're going to play a game called 'Idea Exchange Circle.' It's all about sharing our ideas and deciding together on which fun activities we'd like to try as a group!"

Introduce the Ball or Toy: Hold up the soft ball or toy. "This is our Idea Ball. Whoever holds the Idea Ball gets to share their idea for something fun we can all do together."

Explain the Game:

Step 1: "When you receive the Idea Ball, you'll think of a fun activity we could try together. This could be anything from building something with blocks, drawing, singing a song, or even creating a little dance!"

Step 2: "Once you've shared your idea, everyone in the circle will raise their hands if they want to try it."

Step 3: "If most of us raise our hands, we'll do that activity for a few minutes to enjoy it. But if most of us don't raise our hands, we'll pass the ball to the next friend, who will share their idea."

Step 4: "We'll keep passing the ball around so everyone gets a turn to share their ideas. Ready?"

Encourage Participation and Positivity:

"Remember, we need to give every idea a fair chance, and we're here to try things together! So, let's listen to each other's ideas with open minds and see how much fun we can have trying new things!"

Begin the Game:

- Pass the Ball to the First Child: "Alright, let's start with (Child's Name). (Child's Name), when you're ready, tell us your idea for a fun activity."
- Voting with a Smile: "Now that we've heard (Child's Name)'s idea, let's raise our hands if we'd like to try it! And if we're ready to do something different, we'll pass the ball to the next friend."

Guide and Rotate:

- As each child shares, encourage thoughtful listening. "Great idea, (Child's Name)! We love hearing everyone's suggestions."
- Encourage Voting: "Remember, it's okay if we don't try every idea. We'll get to try lots of different activities by the end."
- Focus on Fun: If an idea is chosen, lead the group in a quick version of that activity. "Let's do the activity together and have some fun!"

6. Conclude the Game:

- Wrap-Up Discussion: "That was amazing! We got to try so many new activities and ideas today. Can anyone tell me how it felt to share your idea with everyone?"
- Talk About Listening and Openness: "Did anyone try something today that they hadn't thought about before? It's fun to see how many great things we can try when we listen to our friends' ideas."

Activity Instructions

Materials Needed:

- A soft ball or stuffed toy to pass around the circle.
- A list of simple activities or tasks (e.g., building a tower with blocks, drawing a picture, singing a song, creating a dance, etc.)

Instructions:

1. Have the children sit in a circle.

2. Explain the game: Each child will take turns holding the ball and sharing an idea for an activity or task.

3. Start by passing the ball to a child. When they receive the ball, they will share an idea for something the group can do together.

4. The group will then vote (by raising hands) to decide if they want to try the suggested idea. If the majority says yes, the group will do the activity for a few minutes.

5. If the majority says no, the ball will be passed to the next child to share their idea.

6. Continue until each child has had a chance to share an idea and the group has tried a few activities.

Discussion:

- After the game, discuss how it felt to share ideas and try new things suggested by friends.
- Talk about the importance of listening to others and being open to new ideas, even if they are different from what we had in mind.

Wrapping it Up

Wrap Up the Lesson (5 minutes)

1. Review and Reflection Overview:

- After students complete their reflections, invite volunteers to share what they learned from their reflections.
- Encourage students to continue using the strategy in their daily lives

Review and Reflection Teacher Script



1. **Gather in a Circle for Reflection:**

- “Let’s all come back together in a circle.”

2. **Closing**

- "Who wants to share what their favorite idea was from today's circle? And who felt happy when their idea was chosen by the group?"
- "You all did a fantastic job listening and being open to new ideas. That's what makes teamwork so wonderful!"

Home Connection Letter

1. Sending Information Home:

- "Before you go, I have a letter for you to take home that explains what we learned today in class."
- 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 Families,

Today in class, we learned about being open to new ideas and teamwork through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns to Say Yes to Good Ideas." This story teaches children the importance of listening to others' suggestions and working together to make fun and exciting things happen.

Here's what we learned:

- Being Open to New Ideas – Understanding that saying yes to good ideas can lead to fun and successful teamwork.
- Teamwork – Recognizing that working together and accepting others' ideas can create wonderful experiences.

We practiced these concepts through role-playing and playing a game called "Idea Exchange Circle." You can help reinforce this at home by encouraging your child to be open to new ideas and work together with family and friends.

Thank you for your support!

With gratitude,

