

TOPIC Acknowledging & Recognizing

LEVEL Second Grade

THEME Acknowledging and Recognizing Others

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the lesson, the students are expected to:

- Learn how acknowledging and recognizing others promotes feelings of belonging and connectedness, supporting positive mental health.

MATERIALS

- Sticky notes or small pieces of paper
- Markers or crayons
- A small box or jar for the "Acknowledgement Box"
- Whiteboard and markers

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to acknowledge or recognize someone?
- How does it feel when someone notices or thanks you for something?
- Why is it important to make others feel seen and appreciated?
- How can acknowledging and recognizing others help our classroom feel like a community?

CHECK-IN / WELCOME (5 MINUTES)

Say: "Today in Aevidum, we are going to talk about something that helps everyone feel connected and included. It's called acknowledging and recognizing. Let's start by thinking about this: How do you feel when someone says thank you to you, or notices something nice you did?"

Call on 3 or 4 students. Write feelings they share on the board: happy, proud, special, good.

GUIDED DISCUSSION / TOPIC INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

Say: "Now, I'm going to write two big words on the board: acknowledgment and recognition.

- Acknowledgment means letting someone know you saw something good they did.
- Recognition means showing them you appreciate it.

When we acknowledge and recognize people, we are saying: 'I see you. You matter.'"

Ask:

- "Why do you think it's important to notice when someone does something kind or helpful?"
 - Take answers: it makes them happy, it helps them feel included, it encourages kindness.
- "When we do this, how does it help our classroom feel like a team or community?"

Say:

"Here are some examples of ways we can acknowledge and recognize each other:

- Saying: 'Thank you for helping me clean up my desk.'
- Complimenting someone: 'I like how you shared your crayons.'
- Writing a note that says, 'You are a good friend.'
- Even smiling or giving a high-five can be a way to recognize someone!"

ACTIVITY: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BOX (20 MINUTES)

Say: "Now we are going to practice acknowledging and recognizing each other with our very own 'Acknowledgement Box.'"

Instructions:

- Give each student 2–3 sticky notes or small papers.
- On each note, instruct them to write or draw something nice about one of your classmates.
- It can be:
 - A thank you for something specific.
 - A compliment about something you notice.
 - Something kind they did that made you feel good.
 - Give examples:
 - "Thank you, Sofia, for letting me borrow a pencil."
 - "Liam, you are a good friend because you played with me at recess."
- Say: "If you need help writing, you can tell me or a friend, and we'll help!"
- Put prompts on the board to guide them:
 - "Thank you for..."
 - "I like how you..."
 - "You are a good friend because..."
- Walk around the room helping students spell words or brainstorm ideas.
- Encourage drawings for students who are not confident writers: "You can draw a picture of what they did!"
- Say: "Now, when you are finished, fold your note and put it in the Acknowledgement Box. This box will hold all our kind messages."
- Once collected, shake the box for excitement and choose 4 or 5 random notes to read aloud. Use first names but not who wrote them to keep it positive and inclusive.
- After each one, lead applause or a cheer: "Great job, [name]!"
- Say: "Let's sit together and think about what we just did.
 - How did it feel to write kind notes for your classmates?
 - How did it feel to hear nice things read aloud?
 - Why is it important to do this for each other?"
 - Take 3 or 4 answers. Emphasize that acknowledging others makes them feel good, helps friendships grow, and builds a caring classroom.

WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

Say: "In Aavidum, we always say: 'I've got your back!' When we notice the good in others and let them know, we are showing that we care and that we are a team. This week, I want you to try to acknowledge at least one person at home or at school every day. You can say 'thank you,' give a compliment, or even write a note."

Group Affirmation (Call & Response):

Teacher: "Who has our back?"

Students: "Aavidum!"

Teacher: "And what do we say?"

Students: "I've got your back!"

POTENTIAL EXTENSION

Acknowledgement Wall: Post notes on a bulletin board titled "We've Got Each Other's Backs!" for ongoing recognition. Try to make sure each student gets included on the board, even if you need to recognize a student or encourage a student to recognize a peer.

Community Connection: Send home two sticky notes with each student and ask them to acknowledge someone outside of the classroom like a family member or community member, and then share what happened next class.