



FREEDOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Identify the purpose for having rules at school.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how rules provide order, security, and manage conflict.
3. Apply their critical thinking skills by interpreting information from pictures and/or creating a visual representation of what the school environment would look like with and without rules.
4. Express their ideas verbally based on knowledge and experiences.

TEKS: K.7, K.13A, K.14D, 1.17C&D, 2.10A&B, 2.16F

Materials Needed: Freedom Elementary School story; one set of Behavior Cards (already cut out for kindergarten and first grade); one Freedom Elementary—A School Without Rules sign (kindergarten and first grade only); one Our School—A School With Rules sign (kindergarten and first grade only), a five to six foot piece of yarn, rope, or masking tape (kindergarten and first grade only); two pieces of chart paper and markers or crayons (second grade only).

Vocabulary: bully, conflict, disobey, freedom, order, order, rules, security

Teaching Strategy:

Part One

1. Introduce the lesson by displaying the Freedom Elementary School story with picture. Read the story to the class and then ask students the following questions:
 - a. What are some of the problems at Freedom Elementary School?
 - b. Do you think the students should be allowed to behave this way at school? Why or why not?
 - c. What do you think needs to be done to make Freedom Elementary a better place to go to school?
2. Ask students what rules might help correct some of the problems at Freedom Elementary School. Record the rules on the board, chart paper or overhead.
3. Kindergarten and First Grade Strategy
 - a. Place a five to six foot piece of yarn or rope on the floor. (A piece of masking tape may also be used.)
 - b. Place the Freedom Elementary—A School Without Rules sign on the left side of the line and the Our School—A School With Rules sign on the right side of the line.
 - c. Have students sit in a circle around the line.
 - d. Shuffle the Behavior Cards and pass one out to each student. Explain that the class is going to play a game called “Which School Is It?” Point out the line on the floor. Tell students that when it is their turn, they will share their card to the class and describe what is happening in the picture. Students should then place their card on the left side of the line if the person(s) pictured on their card attends a school without rules (Freedom Elementary) or on the right side of the line if the person(s) pictured attends a school with rules (Our School).
 - e. Select a student to begin the activity. Ask the student to show the class his/her card and describe what is happening in the picture. Instruct the student to place the card on the correct side of the line. (If a student can defend his/her decision, then the card should be considered a correct choice.) Continue the game until all students have placed their cards on the floor under the appropriate sign.

- f. Debrief the activity by discussing how rules provide order and security as well as help manage conflict.
4. Second Grade Strategy
- a. Divide the class into two groups.
 - b. Ask Group One to form a line in front of a piece of chart paper in one designated area of the classroom. Have Group Two form a line in front of another piece of chart paper in another location in the room. (If possible, the two groups should not be able to view each other's chart paper.)
 - c. Tell students that they will not be allowed to talk to each other during this activity.
 - d. Explain that Group One will draw their interpretation of what a school without rules (Freedom Elementary) would look like, and Group Two should draw their interpretation of what a school with rules (Our School) would look like.
 - e. The students, one-at-a-time, will be given 15-20 seconds to draw. When the teacher calls time, the next student should add to the drawing previously created or draw something new. Remind students that when it is their turn to draw, they will not be expected to complete the entire drawing. Each student will be contributing a piece to the completed "work of art."
 - f. After the drawings have been completed, display both pictures beside each other so that everyone in the class can view them. Encourage students to verbalize their observations about the pictures by comparing and contrasting the subject matter and specific details.

Part 2

1. Have students brainstorm a list of rules that they believe their class should follow. Lead the class to select the five best rules to govern their behavior for the school year and post them in the classroom.
2. Students may demonstrate what they have learned from this lesson by completing the following analogy, in graffiti form, on a large sheet of paper: Rules are like _____ because _____. Using markers, students may write their responses anywhere on the paper.

Extension for Gifted/Talented:

Have students design a "Good Classroom Citizen" foldable. They should use the stem sentence "A good classroom citizen should _____ because _____." The foldable should include at least four completed stem sentences and illustrations. The stem sentences used in the foldable should focus on establishing a classroom that is organized, safe, and/or secure.

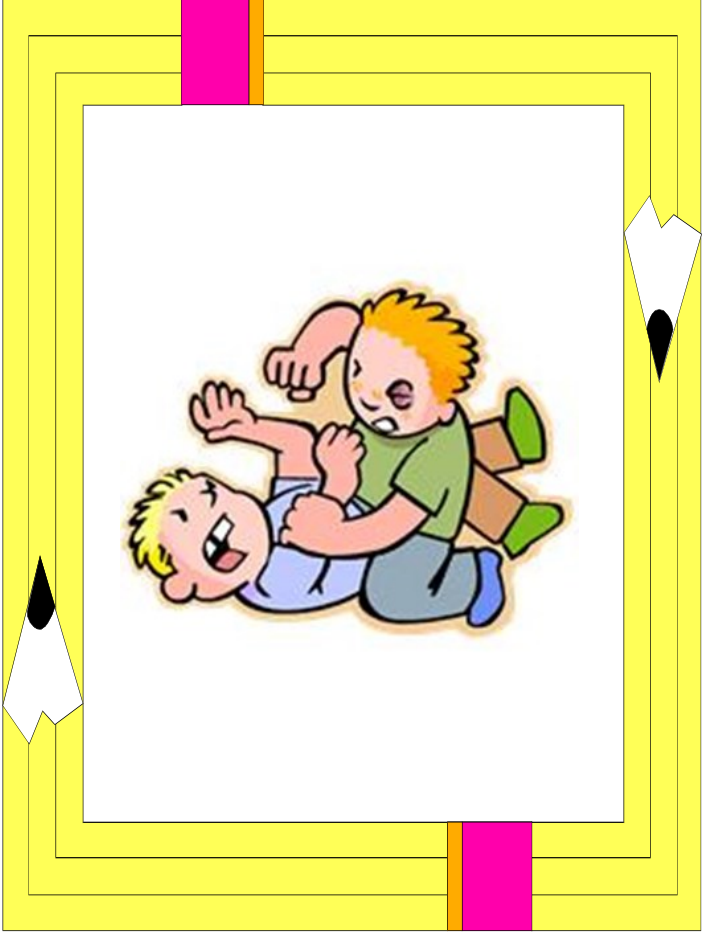
FREEDOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Freedom Elementary School, students can do whatever they want to do. They can arrive at school late, skateboard in the hallways, and disobey their teachers and principal. Students are noisy, rude and disrupt classes. Bullies hurt classmates' feelings, tease them, and scare them. Students constantly interrupt teachers and refuse to study and do their homework. When pupils disagree with each other, they scream, yell, and often get into fights. If students at Freedom Elementary see something they want, they just take it.

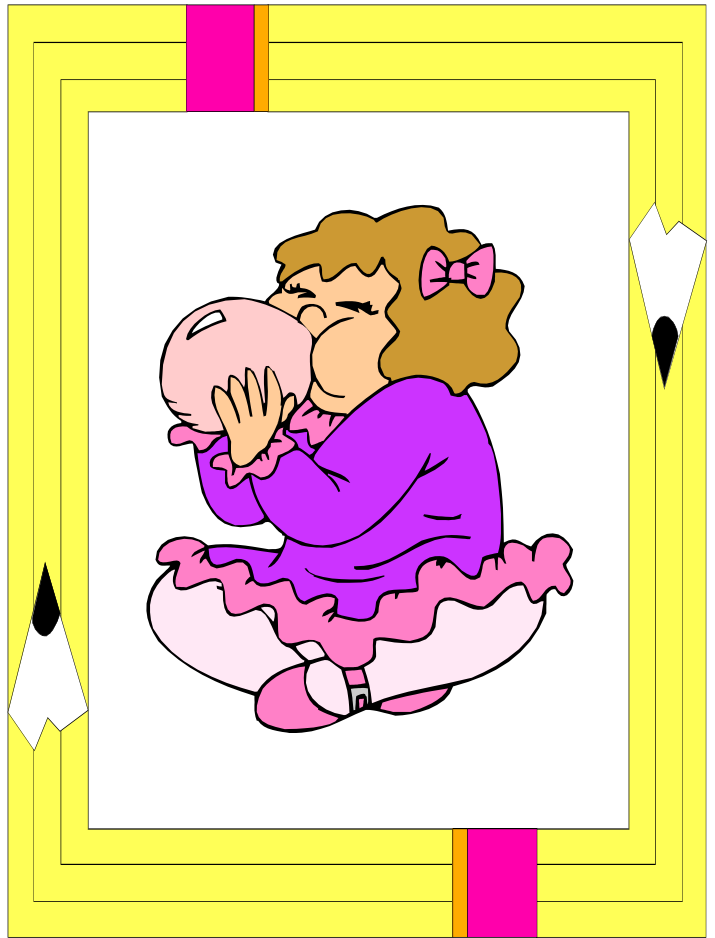
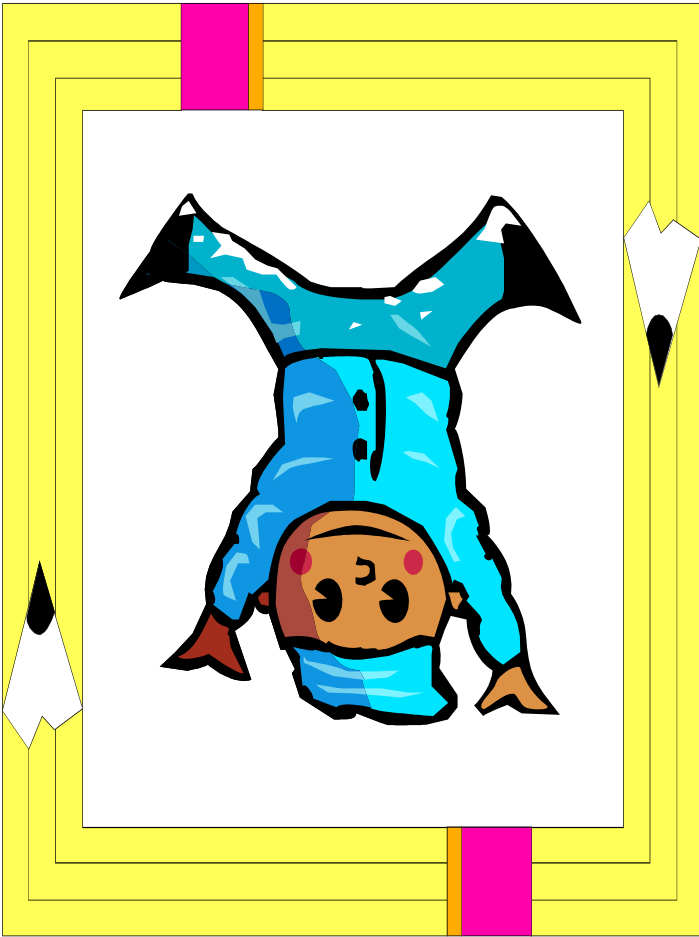
Students can ignore the rights of others at Freedom Elementary. Some students do not feel safe at school, and have a difficult time learning.



BEHAVIOR CARDS











FREEDOM ELEMENTARY— A SCHOOL WITHOUT RULES



OUR SCHOOL— A SCHOOL WITH RULES

