Promoting Peace
Through Picture Books
Activities Guide

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Using Sign Language to Promote Peace

American Sign Language (ASL) is a form of gestural communication that most deaf people use when they are communicating among themselves. Over the years, many benefits to teaching sign language to hearing children have been shown.

Small children will enjoy learning to sign, just as they love to learn anything by doing, exploring, trying, and being active. Children already communicate physically from a very young age—through waving “bye, bye,” blowing kisses, grabbing, crying, hugging, pushing and shoving. Since they are learning to communicate through physical actions anyway, signing can direct this in a more positive way. Studies have shown that hearing preschoolers who learned to use sign language had fewer behavior problems and cooperated more with their classmates.

Knowing a second language, such as ASL, boosts self-esteem of the children and their confidence in learning, as well as their awareness of the Deaf culture. This helps to foster an acceptance of differences.

A dozen signs have been selected that go along with concepts found in the Peace books. Teach the signs to your children as you come to them in the Peace Curriculum. Use your hand to shape a child’s hand to make the sign if he or she is having trouble. You can use the signs throughout the day when the same concepts come up.

Look at sign language as a fun physical activity that your children can learn along with you!

The appendix contains more signs for you to teach and use with your children.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Origin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRIEND</td>
<td>Representing a close-knit association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAPPY</td>
<td>Patting the chest shows happiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELP</td>
<td>Offering a helping hand</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOVE</td>
<td>Pressing to one’s heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEACE</td>
<td>A handshake of peace</td>
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Signs and origins taken from *Joy of Signing* by Lottie L. Riekehof
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Origin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLEASE</td>
<td>Rubbing the heart to indicate pleasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POINT OF VIEW</td>
<td>The direction from which someone or something is seen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROUD</td>
<td>Inner feelings rise</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHARE</td>
<td>As if dividing something that is in the hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THANK YOU</td>
<td>Similar to throwing a kiss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOGETHER</td>
<td>Moving along with another</td>
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</table>

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXCITED</strong></td>
<td>The feelings are stirred</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SAD</strong></td>
<td>Long-faced and gloomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRIGHTENED</strong></td>
<td>Hands open to protect oneself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANGRY</strong></td>
<td>Tearing the clothes in anger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SIT</strong></td>
<td>Fingers represent the seated person and the chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JUMP</strong></td>
<td>Bending the knees in jumping</td>
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</tbody>
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Signs and origins taken from *Joy of Signing* by Lottie L. Riekehof
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<tr>
<td>WAIT</td>
<td>Fingers wiggle to pass the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATIENCE</td>
<td>Closing the mouth and waiting in silence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAME</td>
<td>Both fingers are alike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIFFERENT</td>
<td>Fingers are pulled apart to show a difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONFUSION</td>
<td>Everything going in circles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMFORT</td>
<td>Stroking the hands as if warming them</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signs and origins taken from *Joy of Signing* by Lottie L. Riekehof
The Peace Starts with Me Collection is designed to enhance children’s awareness of their own emotions. The characters in these books experience a range of feelings (i.e. happy, mad, sad, angry, and grumpy), allowing children the opportunity to identify and validate their own feelings. Through the books and corresponding extension activities, such peaceful topics as self-control, self-concept, and finding a peaceful place are explored.

Arizona Early Learning Standards

Social and Emotional Standards

SE 1.1d—Shows and awareness of similarities and differences between self and others.
SE 1.2a—Associates emotions with words, facial expressions and body language.
SE 1.2b—Identifies, describes and expresses his/her own feelings.
SE 1.2c—Identifies and describes feelings of others.
SE 1.2d—Expresses Empathy for others.
SE 1.3d—Chooses appropriate words and actions.

Language and Literacy Standards

LL1.1a—Demonstrates understanding of a variety of finger-plays, rhymes, chants, poems, conversations and stories.
LL1.2a—Communicates needs, wants, ideas and feelings through three to five word sentences.
LL1.2b—Speaks clearly and understandably to express ideas, feelings and needs.
LL 2.5f With prompting and support, gives an opinion for liking or disliking a book or story.
Summary - Sylvie, by Jennifer Sattler

Meet a flamingo of a different stripe. When all-too-curious Sylvie learns that the reason she is pink is because of her diet, she decides to do a little experimenting! At first, Sylvie likes trying out different colors and patterns, but ultimately she learns the valuable lesson that sometimes it’s best to just be yourself.

American Sign Language

Happy Proud

Extension Activity - Painting a Self or Family Portrait

“We are all special and proud of ourselves and our families.”

Model for children how to use the paint to make their portrait:

- Using oil pastel/watercolor, show children how to draw themselves and their families first with the oil pastels. Then, they can paint the background of their pictures using watercolor paints. Show children that it is alright to paint over the oil pastels with the watercolors – they will still be able to see the picture they drew with the oil pastels.
- Using textured paint, have the children help you create the colors of the paint. Show them how to make different colors to create varying shades of a color.
- When children are finished with their portraits, invite them to talk about their pictures, then display them around the room.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Encourage children to share special qualities that they are proud of. For example, “I know how to ride my bike and it makes me feel proud to be me!” “I am a big sister and I love to read books to our baby. I feel proud when I share books with her.” Celebrate their uniqueness!

Building Your Library

Chamelia- Ethan Long
A Color of His Own- Leo Lionni
The Mixed-Up Chameleon– Eric Carle
Gregory, the Terrible Eater- Mitchell Sharmat
Summary - Llama Llama Mad at Mama, by Anna Dewdney

Mama Llama is shopping with her tired and restless child for whom the excursion is lasting way too long. Mama handles the inevitable tantrum with grace and humor. Llama Llama learns that it is possible for him to help rather than hinder. This story is a great conversation starter to discuss melt-downs.

American Sign Language

Peace
Help

Extension Activity - “Freeze Dance”
Use this fun activity to promote self-regulation

- Use the song “Freeze Dance” by Greg and Steve to practice self-regulation (you can also use any other music). Tell the children they will be playing a movement game in which they will tell their bodies what to do. They will have self control of their bodies. When the music is playing they will dance to the music. When the music stops, they will freeze immediately and not move a muscle.

- If they get quite good at Freeze Dance, give them a silly challenge to do the opposite. See if they can dance when the music is not on and “freeze” when the music is playing.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Practice this poem with children during circle time as a strategy to use when they’re upset

“When Angry Feeling Start to Mount”

When angry feelings start to mount,
That’s when I take some time to count:
One...Two...Three...Four...Five...
Counting helps me settle down,
Counting help to fade my frown:
Six...Seven...Eight...Nine...Ten...

Building Your Library

Grumpy Bird–Jeremy Tankard
Llama Llama Misses Mama – Anna Dewdney

700 N. Stone Ave.  •  www.makewayforbooks.org  •  (520) 398-6451
Summary - The Story of Ferdinand, by Munro Leaf

Ferdinand is a big strong bull who does not like to fight. He prefers a special place under a tree where he can be at peace and smell the flowers. One day he is selected for the bull fights in Madrid and Ferdinand shares his soft, gentle side with all of Spain.

American Sign Language

Point of View

Peace

Extension Activity - Our Peaceful Place

Create a quiet place in the classroom. Label it “Our Peaceful Place” with a picture of Ferdinand under his tree with flowers. Ask the children for ideas that would make the place softer and more comfortable for them. Offer ideas like: adding stuffed animals, having peaceful music available, hanging a curtain, and/or using pillows or blankets.

Talk with the children about when to use the peaceful place. For example, “When Ferdinand was mad about the bee sting, he smelled the flowers and was at peace again. We could use our peaceful place if we feel mad so we can be happy again.” Ask the kids to share times when they might feel mad and want to go to “Our Peaceful Place.” When you notice kids that seem to feel mad in your classroom, invite them to hang out in “Our Peaceful Place” until they feel calm and peaceful again.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Establish agreements and common language with children to decrease conflict. Children are empowered when they know what to say to one another. For example, “Stop pulling my shirt, I don’t like it when you do that.”

Building Your Library

The Quiet Book– Deborah Underwood

The Curious Garden- Peter Brown

700 N. Stone Ave. • www.makewayforbooks.org • (520) 398-6451
Summary - A Kiss Means I Love You, by Kathryn Madeline

“A kiss means I love you, a wave means hello, a smile means I’m happy, a tug means let’s go!” With engaging photographs of real children and sweet rhyming text, this fun read-aloud teaches children about nonverbal communication.

American Sign Language

Happy

Love

Extension Activity - “Body Language Story” Book

For this activity, you will help your children create their own “Body Language Story” picture book. Help the children select an action and a feeling. For example, “This is the story of when I run. When I’m feeling frustrated, that’s when I run.” If children are stuck while brainstorming, talk to them about healthy options for acting out their feelings, such as, “When I’m angry, I play my drum.”

Children can either illustrate their own book or you could take photos of the children.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Provide activities that offer children the opportunity to creatively explore their feelings through reflection, discussion, art, and dance. These activities help children to understand how they can promote positive feelings in one another by practicing kindness in their daily lives.

Building Your Library

The Story of Ferdinand– Munro Leaf

Llama Llama Mad at Mama- Anna Dewdney

700 N. Stone Ave. • www.makewayforbooks.org • (520) 398-6451
Summary - *If You’re Happy and You Know It*, by James Warhola

Get ready to stomp your feet, flap your wings, and give a roar in this fun, sing-along safari. The book is based on the classic children’s song, but with a wild twist!

**American Sign Language**

Happy  

Proud

**Extension Activity** - “*If You’re ____ and You Know It*”

For this activity, you will sing to the tune “*If You’re Happy and You Know It,*” but replace the word “happy” with another feeling word. While singing, act out what this feeling may look like (facial expression or body language). Simple choices can include “sad,” “scared,” or “mad.” Other feeling words you can help children to learn express include brave, cheerful, lonely, confused, or proud.

**Building a Peaceful Environment**

“Understanding emotions is a critical part of children’s overall development. It is up to adults to teach children to understand and deal with their emotions in appropriate ways. They are experiencing many new, exciting things for the first time. It can be overwhelming! We need to be sure to validate our children’s emotions and don’t punish them for expressing their feelings.”

- The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

**Building Your Library**

- *The Way I Feel*– Janan Cain
- *Grumpy Bird*– Jeremy Tankard
- *In My Heart: A Book of Feelings*– Jo Witek

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700 N. Stone Ave.  •  www.makewayforbooks.org  •  (520) 398-6451
Summary - *Grumpy Bird*, by Jeremy Tankard

Bird wakes up feeling grumpy—too grumpy to eat or play, too grumpy to even fly! He walks past Sheep, who offers to keep him company. He walks past Rabbit, Raccoon, Beaver, and Fox. Before he knows it, a little exercise and companionship has helped Bird turn from grumpy to joyful.

**American Sign Language**

Friend ![Friend Sign](image)

Together ![Together Sign](image)

**Extension Activity - Follow the Leader**

- Show children the sign for “together” and emphasize that you are all making the motions together, just like the characters in the story.
- Enjoy each other’s companionship by doing movements together. In the book, the characters repeat Grumpy Bird’s movements. Play a follow the leader game to some music (we suggest using “A Tooty Ta” by Johnny Only) and let the children have fun following your lead as Grumpy Bird. Invite the children to take turns being the Grumpy Bird leader.

**Building a Peaceful Environment**

Provide activities that offer children the opportunity to creatively explore their feelings through reflection, discussion, art, and dance. These activities help children to understand how they can promote positive feelings in one another by practicing kindness in their daily lives.

**Building Your Library**

- *Mouse Was Mad*– Linda Urban
- *Boo Hoo Bird* –Jeremy Tankard
- *Grumpy Gloria*– Anna Dewdney

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700 N. Stone Ave.  •  www.makewayforbooks.org  •  (520) 398-6451
### Summary - The Kissing Hand, by Audrey Penn

School is starting in the forest, but Chester Raccoon does not want to go. To help ease Chester’s fears, Mrs. Raccoon shares a family secret called the Kissing Hand to give him the reassurance of her love any time his world feels a little scary. This book is great for times of separation, especially when starting school.

### Extension Activity - Making A Kissing Hand

Invite children and parents to make a handprint for each other. You can use paint or a large stamp pad for handprints, or trace around their hands and color them with crayons or markers. Demonstrate how to trace your hand by spreading your fingers apart and holding your hand very still.

- You may want to draw a large circle each handprint for the cutting line, as it may be too difficult or frustrating for young children to cut out each finger. Leave enough room to write a note to one another. Children can dictate a short note to their parents about the handprint. Write down exactly what the child says. The note can be glued to the center of the handprint/tracing.
- Punch a hole in the handprint/tracing and add a book ring so they can be attached to a key ring, bag, or backpack.

### Building a Peaceful Environment

Ask parents to provide their child with a family picture. These family photos should be displayed in the room for all to see. Children learn more about one another while visiting the photos, but also feel they are represented in the space. Some children can be comforted by their family photo when feeling stressed.

### Building Your Library

- **My Monster Mama Loves Me So** – Laura Leuck
- **A Book of Hugs** – Dave Ross
- **I Love You Because You’re You** – Liza Baker
Summary - Little Quack, by Lauren Thompson

Little Quack’s brothers and sisters splish, splash, and splosh their way into the pond behind their mama. Will he join his family? Count along and watch Little Quack gain bravery and confidence!

American Sign Language

Help

Together

Extension Activity - Brave Ducks

- Make a tunnel the children can crawl through using chairs or a box. At one end, create an outline of a pond the children will fit in.

- Explain to the children they will be ducks and they must crawl one at a time through the scary tunnel into the pond like Little Quack.
- Children not in the tunnel should encourage the others as they go through.
- After each turn, count how many “ducklings” are in the pond, just like the book.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Create a safe environment for the children to share and talk about their feelings. Ask them questions such as:

- “Have you ever been afraid to do something?” Invite children to share and ask if and how they were able to overcome this fear.
- “Would it be okay if the ducks didn’t jump in the water?” and “Is it okay to be afraid to do something?” Acknowledge that it is okay to be afraid.

Building Your Library

- Splish, Splash, Splat!—Rob Scotton
- Bear Feels Scared—Karma Wilson

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Peace With Friends

The Peace With Friends collection is designed to show the importance of caring for and being a good friend. The characters in these books learn what it’s like to make a new friend, how to be a good friend, what being a friend means, and how to share. Through these books and corresponding extension activities, peaceful topics such as patience, positive conflict resolution, cooperation, sharing, and friendship are explored.

Social and Emotional Standards

SE 1.2a—Associates emotions with words, facial expressions, and body language.
SE 1.2d—Expresses Empathy for others
SE 2.1c—Demonstrates the ability to engage with new adults or children with the support of familiar adults.
SE 2.2a—Responds when adults or other children initiate interactions
SE 2.2b—Initiates and sustains positive interactions with adults and other children.
SE 2.2c—Demonstrates positive ways to resolve conflicts.

Language and Literacy Standards

LL1.2a—Communicates needs, wants, ideas and feelings through three to five word sentences.
LL1.2b—Speaks clearly and understandably to express ideas, feelings and needs.
LL 2.1c—Makes relevant responses to questions and comments from others.
LL 2.1f—Uses appropriate eye contact, turn taking and intonation while having conversations with adults and peers.
**Summary** - Leonardo the Terrible Monster, by Mo Willems

Leonardo is truly a terrible monster—terrible at being a monster, that is! Despite his best efforts, he can’t seem to frighten anyone. But when Leonardo discovers the perfect nervous little boy, will he finally scare the tuna salad out of him? Or will he think of something even better?

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**American Sign Language**

- Frightened
- Care

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**Extension Activity** - Being a Wonderful Friend!

What does it mean to be a “wonderful friend?” Have a discussion with your children about a wonderful friend. What makes that friend wonderful? What can they, themselves do to be a wonderful friend? Write down the children’s responses and post them in the room for all to see. It can help the children to see the power they have to be a wonderful friend!

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**Building a Peaceful Environment**

Bullying can cause stress, fear, and anxiety in young children. Behaviors that are indicative of bullying in a child may include:

- Suddenly afraid to go to school
-Complains of headaches or stomach aches for no reason
- Comes home with unexplained injuries
- Withdrawn and depressed
- Talks about one particular child doing mean things to them

Give children the tools they need to handle a bully. Teach them how to stand tall, look the bully in the eye, tell an adult, and avoid being alone. Confident children are less likely to be targeted by bullies, so find ways to build you child’s self-esteem. For more information, visit www.education.com/magazine/article/bullying-preschool/

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**Building Your Library**

- Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend—Mélanie Watt
- Do You Want To Be My Friend?—Eric Carle
- Pete the Cat and the New Guy—Kimberly and James Dean

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Summary - What About Bear?, by Suzanne Bloom

It’s playtime! Bear and Goose are having fun. But when Fox joins in, somebody gets left out. This gentle story delicately opens up conversations about conflict resolution and how to solve problems when a new friend joins in the play.

American Sign Language

Friend  Comfort

Extension Activity - Treasure Box

Put toys like those shown in the book in a “treasure box.” Before heading outside to play, introduce the treasure box. “We have a treasure box just like Bear, Goose, and Fox. When we get outside, everyone will sit down and then we will be ready to see what is inside our amazing treasure box.” Once outside, take out the items one by one. As you take out each item, ask the group how they might play with them together. Then, set the item aside until you are finished going through the box. Let them know that they will be figuring out how to play together and solve problems that arise.

Building a Peaceful Environment

“Friendships are important in helping children develop emotionally and socially. They provide a training ground for trying out different ways of relating to others. Through interacting with friends, children learn the give and take of social behavior in general.”

-NYU Child Study Center: www.aboutourkids.org/articles/do_kids_need_friends

Building Your Library

Treasure– Suzanne Bloom
A Splendid Friend, Indeed– Suzanne Bloom
Friends– Mies Van Hout
Summary - A Visitor for Bear, by Bonny Becker

Bear is quite sure he doesn't like visitors. He even has a sign. So when a mouse taps on his door one day, Bear tells him to leave. But when Bear goes to the cupboard to get a bowl, there is the mouse—small and gray and bright-eyed. All Bear wants is to eat his breakfast in peace, but the mouse—who keeps popping up in the most unexpected places—just won't go away!

American Sign Language

Patience Together

Extension Activity - Book Making

- Fold the pages in half ahead of time to create a booklet. Let the children know they can make a little booklet called “A Visitor for ____.” Encourage them to write their first name in the blank.
- The children can make a book that show what they like to do when their friends come to visit. Ask them what toys or food they like to share and what they like to do.
- Have the children talk about their friendship drawings/stories.
- Read some of the “A Visitor for ____” books a circle or reading time.

Building a Peaceful Environment

This book gives an opportunity to discuss inclusion/exclusion and letting others join you. Ask questions such as, “What do you think the mouse felt when Bear kept telling him to go away?” Children can learn to be open and inclusive of others by understanding different points of view.

Building Your Library

Treasure—Suzanne Bloom

A Splendid Friend, Indeed—Suzanne Bloom

Duck and Goose—Tad Hills
Summary - The Bear Who Shared, by Catherine Rayner

Norris the bear has been waiting patiently for the last ripe fruit to fall from the tree. But Tulip the raccoon and Violet the mouse have too...although maybe not so patiently. In fact, Tulip and Violet sniff, listen to, and even hug the fruit. Norris catches the fruit when it finally falls, and because he is a wise bear, he shares it and makes two new friends.

American Sign Lan-

Patience
Share

Extension Activity - Friendship Tree

- Make a class friendship tree. Create a trunk and branches to display on a wall in your classroom. Cut out some oval shapes from orange construction paper to be “plorringes.”
- Have children decorate their plorringes and write their name on the front of them. Or, you could take pictures of your children and paste them on the plorringes.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Use the Friendship Tree whenever you notice children sharing and being kind. Point to the children’s pictures on the Friendship Tree and say specifically what you noticed them doing. For example, “I saw Jessica and Brian sharing blocks together. They were both being kind.”

Building Your Library

The Doorbell Rang– Pat Hutchins
The Little Red Hen– Paul Galdone

700 N. Stone Ave. • www.makewayforbooks.org • (520) 398-6451
Summary - City Dog, Country Frog, by Mo Willems

In spring, when City Dog runs free in the country for the first time, he spots Country Frog sitting on a rock, waiting for a friend. “You’ll do,” Country Frog says, and together they play Country Frog games. In summer, they meet again and play City Dog games. Through the seasons, whenever City Dog visits the country he runs straight for Country Frog’s rock. In winter, things change for City Dog and Country Frog. Come spring, friendship blooms again, a little different this time.

American Sign Language

Sit  Jump

Extension Activity - Children Authors

Create and activity based on your children’s interests and responses to this story:

- You might invite the children to write an extended ending to the story about City Dog and Country Chipmunk.
- You might also do various activities about the seasons, perhaps showing what animal friends would do in each season.

Building a Peaceful Environment

During a quiet time, invite the children to sit with a couple of stuffed animals and have them be friends and play together in the cooperative way City Dog and Country Frog did. You can also have them play games the way they think City Dog and Country Chipmunk might have played.

Building Your Library

Frog and Toad Are Friends– Arnold Lobel

Hop Jump– Ellen Stoll Walsh

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The Peace Through Caring collection is designed to promote peace through the power of helping and caring for others. The characters in these books all help one another and take care of each other—sometimes by creating a nice surprise! Using these books and corresponding extension activities, children can learn about peace through helping others in need, friendship, service, generosity, thoughtfulness, and compassion.

Social and Emotional Standards
SE 1.1d—Shows and awareness of similarities and differences between self and others.
SE 1.2a—Associates emotions with words, facial expressions and body language.
SE 1.2c—Identifies and describes feelings of others.
SE 1.2d—Expresses empathy for others.
SE 1.3d—Chooses appropriate words and actions.

Approaches To Learning Standard & Social Studies Standard
ATL 1.1a—Initiates interactions with others.
ATL 1.2b—Expresses an interest in other people.
SS 2.2a—Demonstrates responsible behaviors.
SS 2.2b—Recognizes that people rely on others for goods and services.
SS 2.2g—Describes his/her role at home, at school and in the community.
Summary - Flower Garden, by Eve Bunting

Follow the progress of a little girl and her father as they purchase “a garden” and board the bus to carry it home. The pansies, tulips, daffodils, geraniums, and daisies are lovingly planted in a window box, and the candles on the cake are lit—just as Mom walks in the door to find her daughter, her husband, and her birthday surprise.

American Sign Language

Care

Proud

Extension Activities – Flower Exploration

- **Dyeing Flowers**: Place white carnations in tinted water and watch them change.

- **Sensory Bin Garden**: Grow flowers in your sensory bin.

- **Dissecting flowers**: Use contact paper, tweezers, and magnifying glasses to create a science lab.

- **Sandbox Garden**: Add silk flowers, mini pots, garden shovels, hats, etc. to set the scene.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Having fresh flowers in your classroom increases positive emotions and creates a sharing atmosphere.

- Research study by Rutgers University

Building Your Library

- Grandma’s Gloves—Cecil Castellucci
- Carrot Soup—John Segal
- How Do Dinosaurs Say Happy Birthday?—Jane Yolen
- A Birthday for Bear—Bonny Becker

700 N. Stone Ave. • www.makewayforbooks.org • (520) 398-6451
Summary - I Can Help, by David Hyde Costello

“Uh-oh. I’m lost,” a little duck says. “I can help,” says a monkey, who swings down from a tree and helps the little duck. Then the monkey loses his balance! Who can help him? Giraffe can! And so the fun begins in this story about how easy it is to help someone in need.

American Sign Language

Help

Thank You

Extension Activity – “I Can Help” Game

For this activity you will need a large area for the children to run around. You may want to designate an area they must stay within by using sports cones. Give it a name, for example the “Peace Garden.”

For the first round, the teacher can be “It.” Holding a soft ball, gently tag the children with the ball one at a time. A child who is tagged with the ball will become frozen. He or she will say, “Help me, help me!” The other children will run over to the “frozen” child, form a circle around him or her and say, “I can help!” The “frozen” child is now unfrozen and the game continues.

Pause the game about every 1-2 minutes to allow different children the opportunity to be “it.” Tagging with a soft ball helps to prevent children from pushing or tagging too hard.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Children feel powerful when they can help others. Being a part of a family, group, or community that supports each other is like being on a team. Here’s a poem that could be your team’s mantra!

You help me and I help you
That’s what friendly people do
When I have trouble or get something wrong
It all works out when you come along!

Building Your Library

Daisy and the Egg– Jane Simmons

My Friend Rabbit– Eric Rohmann

700 N. Stone Ave. • www.makewayforbooks.org • (520) 398-6451
Summary - Little Blue Truck, by Alice Schertle

Beep! Beep! Beep! Meet Blue. A muddy country road is no match for this little pick-up truck— that is, until he gets stuck while pushing a dump truck out of the muck. Filled with truck sounds and animal noises, this story displays the power of friendship and the rewards of helping others.

American Sign Language

Help

Together

Extension Activity – Build Trucks!

Ask the children if they would like to build a little truck and a dump truck. Have materials accessible such as cardboard boxes, recycled containers, paper plates, paint, markers, etc. Children can also make puppets of each of the animals using paper bags or paper plates glued onto popsicle sticks. They can then retell the story by acting it out.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Just like the characters in the book, children feel happy when they are part of a helpful team. After cleaning up, setting the table, or working on a project together, have some fun by putting your hands together in the middle and cheering, “Go, Team!” Personalizing this cheer makes it even more special and builds community.

Building Your Library

Duck in a Truck– Jez Alborough

Little Blue Truck Leads the Way– Alice Schertle

Sheep in a Jeep– Nancy Shaw

www.makewayforbooks.org • (520) 398-6451
Summary - Peter’s Chair, by Ezra Jack Keats

After Peter becomes a big brother, he notices that his old furniture has been painted pink. Not wanting to share his belongings, he quickly snatches his chair, the one piece of furniture that has not been painted. When Peter actually tries to sit in the chair, he realizes he is much too big for it. Peter soon takes pride in the fact that he is no longer a baby, but a growing boy, and he returns home to help his father paint his beloved chair to share with his new sister.

American Sign Language

Share

Sit

Extension Activity – Growing Up and Sharing

Talk with the class about growing up. Remind them that in the story, Peter realizes he is too big for his chair, so he decides to give it to his baby sister. Ask the children if they can think of anything they don’t use anymore in the classroom or at home that they would like to share with others. Invite them to share the item with a friend or the class so they have the opportunity to practice sharing.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Baby Photo Matching Display:
Provide children the opportunity to develop and demonstrate knowledge about self-identity and growth.

- Have each child bring a photo of him or her self as a baby. Also, take a current photo of each child.
- Create a bulletin board with all of the baby photos on one side and all of the current photos on the other.

Building Your Library

The Bear Who Shared—Catherine Rayner

Bear With Me—Max Kornell

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Summary - The Lion and the Mouse, by Jerry Pinkney

After a ferocious lion spares a cowering mouse that he’d planned to eat, the mouse later comes to his rescue, freeing him from a poacher’s trap. In a wordless adaptation of one of Aesop’s famed fables, an unlikely pair learn that no act of kindness is ever wasted.

American Sign Language

Help

Thank You

Extension Activity – Little Helping Hands

Revisit the title page and point out the illustration of the mouse in the lion’s footprint. Use your hand to help demonstrate the differences in size. Help each child trace around his or her hand. Ask them to tell you some way they can help out a grown-up at their house. Write what the child says on the front of the hand shape (later, cut out each hand shape).

Ask the children to take their hand shapes home. Send a note to parents asking them to trace their hands and cut them out, then attach the child’s hand to the center of theirs. Encourage families to have a discussion about how they can each play important roles in helping their family. Then, hang their hands up as a reminder.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Establish or revisit your classroom agreements. Decide how you can create a display such as “Little Helping Hands” to encourage children to work together and maintain an organized and collaborative space.

Building Your Library

Do You Want to Be My Friend? - Eric Carle

Owen & Mzee - Isabella Hatkoff

A Splendid Friend, Indeed – Suzanne Bloom
The Peace With Others collection is designed to enhance children’s understanding and acceptance of other people. The characters in this collection overcome possible conflict with one another and accept someone else for who they are, even though they might be a little different. Through these books, the peaceful concepts such as diversity, acceptance, similarities and differences, and understanding different points of view are explored.

**Arizona Early Learning Standards**

**Social and Emotional Standards**

SE 1.1c—Demonstrates knowledge of self-identity.
SE 1.1d—Shows an awareness of similarities and differences between self and others.
SE 1.2d—Expresses empathy for others.
SE 2.2b—Initiates and sustains positive interactions with adults and other children.

**Social Studies Standard**

SS 1.1c—Describes/discusses own family’s cultural or family traditions.
SS 1.1d—Identifies similarities and differences in their family composition and the families of others.
SS 2.1b—Identifies, discusses and asks questions about similarities and differences in other people in their community.
Summary - *Duck! Rabbit!*, by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Is it a duck or a rabbit? Depends on how you look at it! This book is a clever take on an age-old optical illusion. It’s also a subtle lesson in helping children see another person’s point of view and that, sometimes, there is no right answer.

American Sign Language

![Same, Different, Point of View](images)

Extension Activity– What Could It Be?

Do a fun drawing activity together with your children. Begin drawing a shape of something and have the children guess all of the different things it could be. Then have children draw something as you all say the things it could be.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Children look at the world in their own special and surprising ways. Every child is a unique being with unique opinions and point of view. For teachers, educators, and caregivers, it is important to understand that what works for one child may not necessarily work for another. Between the ages of 3 and 5, children develop motor and social skills, imaginations, a capacity to follow directions, the ability to think visually, and the capacity to understand and express emotions. How children view the world and function within it is in direct relationship to these stages of development. (PBS.org Parent Tales)

Building Your Library

Beautiful Oops! - Barney Saltzberg

It Looked Like Spilt Milk - Charles Shaw

Not a Box – Antoinette Portis
**Summary - Little Blue and Little Yellow, by Leo Lionni**

Little blue and little yellow share wonderful adventures. One day, they can’t find one another. When they finally meet, they are overjoyed. They hug until they become green. But where did little blue and little yellow go? Are they lost?

**Extension Activities – Painting!**

**Ice Cube Painting:** Create blue and yellow ice cubes with food color/water paint. Place a small popsicle stick in them before they freeze. Add a sheet of butcher paper to your sensory table and the ice cubes for the children to explore.

**Coffee Filter “Painting”:** Provide children with small jars of yellow and blue water color paints, eyedroppers, and coffee filters. As children transfer the color to the coffee filters, invite them to examine the movement in color as the coffee filter absorbs the paint.

**Ball Painting:** Place white paper in a cardboard box lid, then have children squeeze yellow and blue tempera paint out of squeezable bottles onto the paper. Add golf balls or marbles and encourage the children to work together to tilt the box in different directions.

**Building a Peaceful Environment**

Extending a simple book like this in many different ways encourages children to interpret the message that although we are different, we are also alike. It is important that children are taught to be inclusive of all people.

**Building Your Library**

- *Margaret and Margarita*– Lynn Reiser
- *All the Colors of the Earth*– Sheila Hamanka
- *The Colors of Us*– Karen Katz
- *Yo! Yes?*– Chris Raschka

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The *Peace With Earth* collection is designed to enhance children’s respect of the Earth, along with the plants and animals that we share it with. The characters in these books learn about the importance of respecting other animals in nature and exploring our natural world. Through this collection, children can explore peaceful topics such as respect for Earth, kindness to animals, and caring for the environment.

### Arizona Early Learning Standards

#### Social and Emotional Standards

SE 1.1d—Shows an awareness of similarities and differences between self and others.

SE 1.2a—Associates emotions with words, facial expressions, and body language.

SE 2.2a—Responds when adults or other children initiate interactions.

SE 2.2c Demonstrates positive ways to resolve conflicts.

#### Social Studies Standard

SS 2.2a—Demonstrates responsible behaviors.

SS 2.2b—Shows an understanding of how to care for the environment.

SS 2.2e—Describes the purpose for rules

SS 2.2f—Recognizes that people have wants and must make choices because resources and materials are limited.
Summary - Hey, Little Ant, by Phillip and Hannah Hoose

What would you do if the ant you were about to step on looked up and started talking? Would you stop and listen? What if your friends saw you hesitate? This story of a conversation between two creatures, large and small, might even answer the question: To squish or not to squish?

Extension Activities

Small Wonders: Take children outside to a grassy area. Place a hoop down on the grass and have them gather around the circle and investigate all of the tiny creatures and things they see, possibly with magnifying glasses. When back inside, ask them to draw a picture of the small wonders they saw.

Make Puppets: Have children make puppets to act out the story. The boy puppet could be a large paper towel tube while the ant could be made from a toilet paper tube cut in half.

Building a Peaceful Environment

“If we wish to create a lasting peace, we must start with the children.” - Mahatma Gandhi

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” - Albert Einstein

Building Your Library

Horton Hears a Who! - Dr. Seuss

Two Bad Ants – Chris Van Allsburg

Alphabugs: A Pop-Up Alphabet – David A. Carter

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Summary - Wow! Said the Owl, by Tim Hopgood

Here’s the story of a curious little owl determined to see what the world looks like during the day. And what does she discover? A wow-worth symphony of colors– from red butterflies to orange flowers, from white clouds to green leaves. A great book for those exploring the colors of the natural world.

American Sign Language

Excited Colors

Extension Activities

Explore Your World: Take the children outside and talk about the different colors they see in their world. Ask them if they see the same or different colors than Owl. Try to find the same colors outside in their world that Owl saw in hers. Then invite them to wonder and be amazed by what they see just like Owl. “Wow! I see the blue sky!”

Making Rainbows: Invite children to make rainbows using streamers. With the children, measure out a piece of streamer the length of their arm. Continue measuring and cutting each color of streamer until they have one of each color. Stack the streamers on top of one another. Tape all the colors together on one end, leaving the other end free.

Building a Peaceful Environment

Set up recycling bins and teach the children the importance of recycling and reusing things to reduce landfill waste. Children can become aware of the differences between trash and recycling and feel like they are contributing to the wellness of our Earth. Fun recycling activities and information can be found at www.sciencekids.co.nz/recycling.html

Building Your Library

My Colors, My World– Maya Christina Gonzalez
My Many Colored Days– Dr. Seuss
De Colores– David Diaz

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National Center Information
More information on the Teaching Pyramid and CSEFEL on the following websites

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning
http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu

CSEFEL has many resources for training, classroom teachers, and family members.

Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children (TACSEI)
www.challengingbehavior.org

TACSEI has several web-based presentations, workshops, and podcasts archived and available for viewing/listening their sites.

Map to Inclusive Child Care

California Collaborative on the Social & Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CA CSEFEL)
www.CAinclusion.org/camap/csefel.html

This is the home page for CA CSEFEL. Information about California’s Teaching Pyramid and Leadership Team, can be found on this website.
Peaceful Reflections

What makes you a peaceful teacher/provider/educator?

What is one thing you can acknowledge and appreciate in your children or what do you love about them?

What is one thing you will do to promote peace in your classroom, work environment, or in your own life?