

Welcome to the First Grade Guidance Curriculum I use at Dakota Valley Elementary School. During the school year, first graders will have a variety of lessons focused on conflict resolution, remaining safe and drug free, character education, and understanding self and others. Below you will find an overview of the different curriculums and lessons used during the year.

First Quarter: Peacemaking Skills

Second Quarter: Safe & Drug Free

Third Quarter: Character Counts: Popcorn Park Series

Fourth Quarter: DUSO (Developing an Understanding of Self and Others)

First Quarter: A Peace-able Place is a Non-violent Living curriculum created by the Mendez foundation. The C.E. Mendez Foundation's kindergarten-12th grade violence prevention curriculum consists of four interconnected strands. Topics are handled in a positive, age-appropriate manner, using cooperative learning, role-playing, and other experiential teaching techniques. The following lessons are part of the Peace-able Place curriculum for first grade.

1. The Best Contest
2. Featuring Our Special Features
3. Looking and Listening
4. Facing Our Feelings
5. Hands Are For Helping
6. All Kinds of Winners

Second Quarter: During the second quarter this year, I used the Safe and Drug Free video series. It is organized around four unit themes: building self-esteem, becoming informed about drugs, building decision-making and relationship skills, and building violence prevention skills. Each class period, we would begin with an introduction matching the topic we were discussing. We would watch the video for the lesson, and reinforce the students' understanding with discussion. Then we applied the skills through role-play, drawing, discussion, or activities. The videos were titled:

1. Jamie Wants To Be The Best
2. Carla's Fever
3. Andy Decides
4. Tracee Won't Share

Third Quarter: Character Counts: Popcorn Park Videos are used to facilitate character education, social and emotional development, and critical thinking in the students.

Character education means helping students know what is right, care about what is right, and do what is right. This video series and the follow-up activities promote the six pillars of character and corresponds with our school-wide Character Counts Program. The six pillars of character are:

Trustworthiness
Respect
Responsibility
Fairness
Caring
Citizenship

Fourth Quarter: Developing Understanding of Self and Others (DUSO) is a program of activities and materials designed to help students understand themselves. DUSO encourages students to develop positive self-images, to become more aware of the relationship between themselves and other people, and to recognize their own needs and goals. DUSO makes extensive use of listening, discussion, and dramatic flay to focus on feelings, communication and problem solving. Activities include stories, songs, discussion pictures, communication, role play, and career activities. Lessons will focus on the following areas:

1. Knowing Oneself
2. Understanding and Expressing Feelings
3. Exploring One's World
4. Becoming Self-Reliant and Independent
5. Solving Problems
6. Valuing Others
7. Understanding Feelings
8. Getting Along with Others
9. Facing Change
10. Recognizing and Making Choices
11. Seeing Effects of Decisions
12. Learning to Resolve Conflict
13. Becoming Aware of the Purposes of Behavior.