

Children's Connection Curriculum

Session Topic: Incarceration,(Truth or Lie Trivia)

Developmental Level: Elementary

Purpose: To help challenge dysfunctional thinking patterns related to why people become incarcerated and what healthy behaviors look like

Materials Needed:

- Truth or Lie cards (Handout 1)
- Optional:
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 - Construction Paper Cutouts (2 different colors...I use laminated circles, but little pieces of any 2 colors will work just fine for this activity), or
 - Buzzers for competitive game play

Description of Session:

1. Print Handout 1.
2. Establish how you want to organize the game. Competition/Jeopardy-style where two teams go head to head answering if the question is true or not? Group-style where all of the kids vote on their answer? Individual-style in which each child gets a chance to answer the question?
3. Once you've established the style of the activity, you can set up the game:
 - a. Jeopardy: Separate kids into teams. Use a buzzer or some other tactic to help you know who was the first to give their answer
 - b. Group: Provide each child with construction paper cutouts, one piece per color for each child. If you don't have that, you can also identify 2 different hand signals or areas of the room, anything to differentiate for 2 different answers to the questions of the game. Establish which color/signal/side of the room will represent truth and which will represent lie.
 - c. Individual: No additional setup is required
4. Discuss with the kids what the difference is between the truth and a lie and practice this with the kids to see if they understand.
 - a. If I said that my name was Frank, would that be the truth or would that be a lie?

- b. If I said that James is sitting on a blue chair, would that be the truth or would that be a lie?
5. When you are ready to begin, read one card or statement and ask the children to state whether it's a truth or a lie (in whatever style you've set up for the game).
6. Discuss the reason why you've decided that the comment is a true statement or a lie. If children are in agreement, much less discussion is necessary, but if children do not agree, then more discussion may be necessary.

Be sure to discuss the faulty belief patterns that may be present. These scenarios are intended to be very gray, so the intent is to get the kids thinking about the reality of these scenarios.

Discussion Questions:

After each truth or lie statement, be sure to address any faulty belief systems and help the children to understand the reality of what will happen in these situations, recognizing that the kids may have some valuable information to share with each other too.