

Classroom Guidance- Rumors

Grade 4

Time- 30 minutes

Materials: "Armadillo Tattletale," by Helen Kettleman (book)
Note to Counselor worksheet (optional)

Introduction:

? If I say the word "rumor," do you think something positive or negative?

? Can anyone tell me what the word "rumor" means?

Raise your hand if anyone has ever had a rumor told about them.

How did it make you feel?

Activity:

1. *We're going to try an activity that will show just how easy it is for a rumor—something that's said that isn't quite true—to get spread.*
2. Start sentence at two sides of the room (have same rumor going from each side, will speed up activity so kids don't lose interest)—"Jay didn't invite Robyn to his birthday party and now they aren't friends anymore." Last students in each line should say what they heard out loud.
3. Discuss how the story changed, how the misunderstanding could effect a friendship.

Story:

1. Read the story. Ask students to watch for how much of each rumor was true.
2. Discuss how the stories in the book were changed to make something that was nice into something that was unkind.
3. *Why do you think Armadillo told the rumor? (to be important, rumors get attention)*
4. *What did the characters in the book do when Armadillo repeated the wrong information? (They confronted him. Talk about the value in that.)*
5. *What can we do to stop a rumor? (not repeat it)*
6. *If we're really brave, what can we do to stop a rumor? (tell the person that's saying it that it doesn't sound true. Example- if someone says Lauren was swearing on the playground and you know she wasn't because you were with her, challenge the rumor by saying you know that's not true.)*

Closing: (choose based on time)

Option 1- have students pretend they are the school counselor and write a response the person who is bothered by rumors.

Option 2- Repeat the telephone game by circulating another sentence.

Example: The school is canceling all Christmas programs, the principal doesn't believe in Santa.

Our teacher says boys are better cooks than girls.

Our teacher is moving and Mr. Dorney is going to be our teacher.

Dear Counselor,

My best friend just told me that people in our class are saying that I cheat on spelling tests. I always get 100 but that's because I study the words. I guess they've even started calling me a cheater. I don't want to go to the teacher or they'll say I'm tattling. What should I do?

Sincerely,

Upset Speller

Dear Upset Speller,

Sincerely,
