

Who Are My Sisters and Brothers?

The Cookie Game

Materials:

- ❖ one large package of cookies;
- ❖ envelopes with small slips of paper inside (one envelope for each student)

Directions:

- ❖ Write “0” on four slips of paper, “3” on four slips, and “1” and “2” on all the rest.
- ❖ Seal each slip in a separate envelope and hand one envelope to each student.
- ❖ One at a time, the students stand and open their envelopes and read aloud the number on their slip of paper.
- ❖ If the number is one, the student gets one cookie; if the number is two, the student gets two cookies; if the number is three, the student gets three cookies; but if the number is zero, the student doesn’t get any.
- ❖ The same procedure is followed until everyone has had a turn.

After the game ask the following questions:

1. Will all the people who got three cookies please come forward? How did you feel when you saw the “3” and then received three cookies?
2. Now will all the students who received a “0” in their envelope come forward? How did you feel when you saw your “0”? How did you feel when you watched all your classmates receive and eat their cookies? Do you like this game? Why?
3. Did any of you share with your classmates who received fewer cookies than you? What does the word “sharing” mean? How are we going to share in our classroom?
4. You might want to discuss that some people did not understand that not everyone got the same number of cookies. Were they surprised? Did they know what to do?
5. After the discussion, please make sure that those students who received a zero get some cookies.

Note: In the many times I have played this game with students, I have never had a group actually share with one another. I usually time this game to be played just before lunch and, without an exception, when the students see their number and get their cookies, they pop them into their mouths. After the sharing discussion they always ask if they can play the game again because now they know how to do it. I stress that in some way we will play the game every day all year.

Also, I put a little star on the back of all the envelopes with a “3” inside and a little plus sign on those with a “0” inside. While it may seem a little stacked, I would never give a “0” to a shy student. Instead I usually give it to a self-assured student who easily vocalizes feelings and would not be crushed by not getting any cookies.

(From: *Peace-ing It Together* by Pat Fellers, Winston Press: Minneapolis, MN. 1984, pp. 7-8. Used with permission.)