

## Thank You Jar

### Grade Level

Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade

### Purpose

The Thank You Jar is a terrific community building activity that helps children to become aware of the nice deeds of peers and it encourages them to do nice things for others.

### Objectives

1. Learn names of friends
2. Practice ability to sequence events and tell a story
3. Encourage positive behavior
4. Positive reinforcement for a nice action
5. Listening to friends
6. Learning to wait your turn
7. Building self-esteem

### Resources/materials/technology

1. Jar
2. Heart shaped post-its
3. Marker
4. Communication device or eye gaze book

### Preparation

For a week prior to starting the Thank You Jar teachers should model thanking children for nice things that they are doing. Not just in passing as we normally do but as a transition activity. Mention specifically what the child did and why it was so kind. Program a device for the children who need it including who they are thanking and why.

### Activity

Have the children sit in a circle. Introduce the Thank You Jar by saying, "Over the past week, I've really noticed that everyone has been doing such nice things for each other. I saw ... help ... when she fell down. I heard ... tell ... that he liked her painting. So I think that we are ready for the Thank You Jar." Model how to thank someone and write the person's name on a heart. Drop it in the jar and go give the person a hug. Explain that you can give a hug, give a handshake or blow a kiss. Now let the kids have a turn. Mention how proud you are when they give good examples of nice things their friends did for them.

### Follow-up

This activity should be done at the end of every day. It becomes a classroom routine. For older children the kids can write the names on the post-it.