

Little Red Hen

Goals

1. Familiarize the children with the idea everybody pitches in.
2. Promote thinking about fairness and doing one's share.
3. Expose the children to the idea that they can help others.

Activity

Large group; small group; story

Materials

- Crayons
- Glue, felt or magnet strip
- Ribbon
- Construction paper circles
- Little Red Hen story and pictures. You may need multiple copies of some pictures.

Preparation

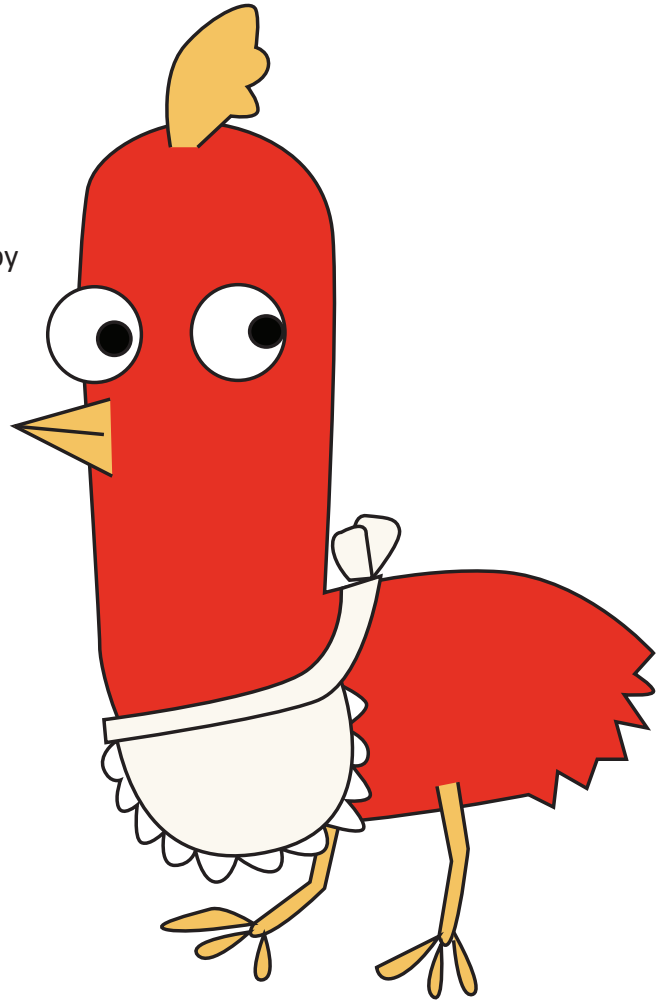
- Determine how you will use the lesson pictures. Copy pictures on cardstock or heavy paper. Be sure to cut apart the picture of the seeds, wheat, flour, and bread.
 - Tell the story with characters: Display pictures on a board or easel or children can hold a picture.
 - Character Shields: Punch a hole in the top corners. Thread a long piece of ribbon through each hole. Children can "wear" their character like a necklace and help act out the story.
 - Headbands: Adjust picture size to fit on a headband. Cut strips of construction paper the length to go around a child's head. Glue pictures to headbands. Have children wear a headband with their character and help act out the story.
 - Make one or several circles with a happy face on one side and sad face on another.

Directions

1. Tell the children they are going to hear a story about fairness. Explain that fairness means everyone helps with work that needs to be done.
2. Based upon how you decided to teach the lesson (see Preparation), distribute pictures from the story of "The Little Red Hen." Introduce and tell the story of "The Little Red Hen," either from a book, the version included here, or an online story.
3. Ask the children to hold up their picture when they hear the word as you read. Practice a few times before starting to read. Ask all the children with the "seed" picture to hold it up when you say the word "seed," and so on until everyone is able to follow the direction. Children "wearing" a picture may stand up or raise their hand when they hear their word.

Little Red Hen

4. Questions to ask after the story:
 - What happened when the Little Red Hen asked her friends to help plant the seeds?
 - How did the Little Red Hen feel? Happy or Sad? Happy and sad face circles could be used for this activity (happy face on one side, sad face on the other). If one happy/sad circle is used, the teacher can give it to a child who can identify which side to choose. If every child has a circle, they can each show the side they choose.
5. Repeat your questions asking about:
 - cutting the wheat, carrying the wheat, grinding the wheat, and making the bread
6. Talk about the end of the story. Ask:
 - How did the friends feel when the Little Red Hen was not sure she wanted to let them eat the bread?
 - Why did the Little Red Hen think it was unfair to share the bread?
7. Wrap up the discussion by talking about how the story ended. Talk about how everyone was happy when they decided to be fair and share the work.



Continuing the Lesson

- You can tell the story again and help the children make up actions for the parts that repeat. For example, they can yawn and stretch like the Lazy Dog, clasp their hands together and tilt their heads like the Sleepy Cat, flap their wings like that Silly Yellow Bird, or “Hmph!” and wiggle in their seats like the busy Little Red Hen. After one or two times through the story, ask them what the Lazy Dog and Sleepy Cat say (watch out for the Silly Yellow Bird—he changes a bit!).
- When you repeat the story, you can repeat the follow up questions. You can also ask additional questions such as:
 - When do you ask friends for help?
 - Was there a time when a friend was not being fair?
 - How can we make sure everyone in our classroom (or program) is being fair when we are doing work?

CHARACTER COUNTS!® WEEK

Little Red Hen

- Retell “The Little Red Hen” but change the outcome or change what happens when the characters help out.
- Read other versions of “The Little Red Hen” to the children and compare with charts, graphs, or Venn diagrams.
- Have the children work together to make a simple snack. Make sure every child has a job and the work is shared evenly. Even something simple like grapes and crackers can be broken up into several smaller jobs, or children can take turns over several days. Use the phrases from the story as the snack is prepared:
 - “Who will help me wash the grapes?”
 - “Who will help put plates on the table?”
 - Encourage children to respond with, “I will!” or “We will!”
- As the group enjoys snack, talk about how everyone shared the work to get the snack ready. Talk about how they were all working in a fair way.

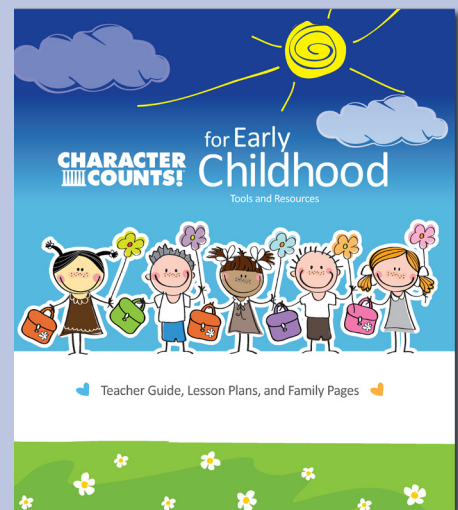
The story of the Little Red Hen is provided on the next page.

CHARACTER COUNTS! for Early Childhood

This lesson is published in our [CHARACTER COUNTS! for Early Childhood](#) kit.

It is written for grades PK-1 but can be adapted to fit your elementary school grade level needs.

[See a sample of other CHARACTER COUNTS! for Early childhood lessons.](#)



CHARACTER COUNTS!® WEEK

Little Red Hen

Once upon a time there was a Little Red Hen who lived on a farm with a Lazy Dog, a Sleepy Cat, and a Silly Yellow Bird. One day, the Little Red Hen found some wheat seeds and wanted to plant them.

She asked her friends, "Who will help me plant these seeds?"

"Not I," said the Lazy Dog. "Planting seeds sounds like work."

"Not I," said the Sleepy Cat. "It is time for my morning nap."

"Not I," said the Silly Yellow Bird. "I might eat the seeds by mistake."

"Then I will plant them all by myself," said the Little Red Hen with a sigh.

"Hmph," said the Little Red Hen. She carefully planted the seeds and tended them all through the spring. When the seeds were grown, it was time to cut the wheat. "Who will help me cut the wheat?" asked the Little Red Hen.

"Not I," said the Lazy Dog. "Cutting wheat sounds like work."

"Not I," said the Sleepy Cat. "It is time for my morning nap."

"Not I," said the Silly Yellow Bird. "I might eat the wheat by mistake."

"Hmph. Hmph," said the Little Red Hen. Then the Little Red Hen worked from sun up to sun down all by herself harvesting the wheat. When she finished, she was very tired and went to bed.

The next day she got up bright and early because there was work to be done. "Who will help me take the wheat to the mill to make flour?" she asked.

"Not I," said the Lazy Dog. "Taking the wheat to the mill sounds like work."

"Not I," said the Sleepy Cat. "It is time for my morning nap."

"Not I," said the Silly Yellow Bird. "I might eat the flour mill by mistake."

"Really, Silly Yellow Bird? You might eat a flour mill?" asked the Little Red Hen.

"Oh. Well, no," said the Silly Yellow Bird, "I would not eat a flour mill. I just don't want to do it."

"Hmph! Hmph! Hmph!" said the Little Red Hen. She then dragged the heavy wheat to the flour mill and ground the wheat into flour all by herself. It was very late when she got home from the mill, and she went to bed quite tired.

The next day she woke up early and tried one more time to get her friends to help her.

"Who will help me make this flour into bread?" she asked hopefully.

"Not I," said the Lazy Dog. "Making bread sounds like work."

"Not I," said the Sleepy Cat. "It is time for my morning nap."

"Not I," said the Silly Yellow Bird. "I just don't feel like it."

She was so disappointed she could not even "Hmph." Instead, she baked the bread herself. When the bread was almost done, the yummy smell from the baking filled the farm. Soon the Lazy Dog, the Sleepy Cat, and the Silly Yellow Bird were at her doorstep.

"Can we help you eat the bread?" they asked.

"I don't know," said the Little Red Hen. "Lazy Dog, eating bread sounds like work. Sleepy Cat, isn't it your morning nap time? Silly Yellow Bird, you might eat too much by mistake."

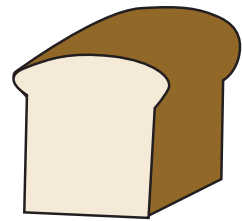
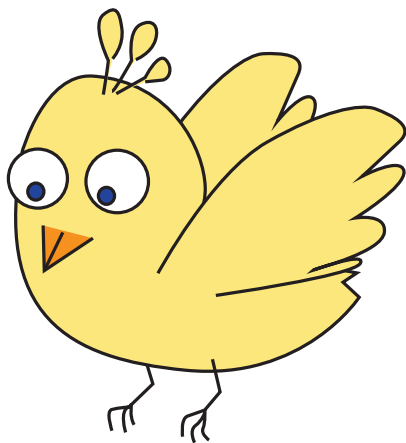
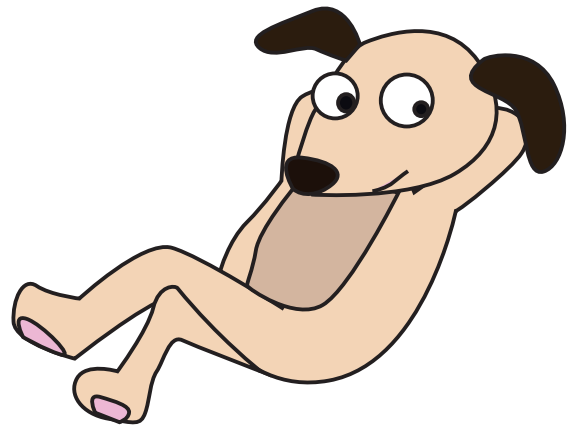
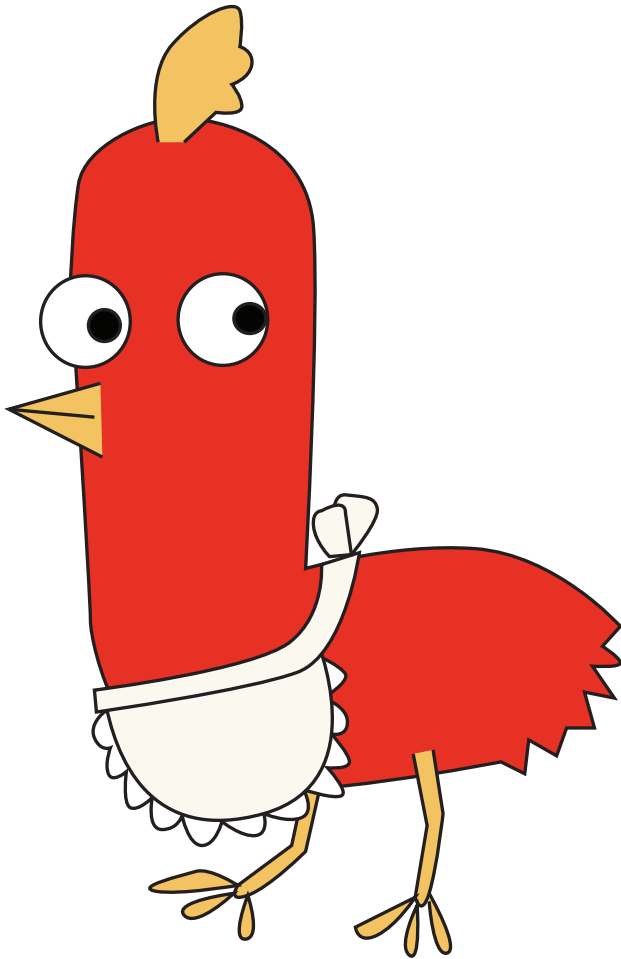
When the Little Red Hen said that, her friends realized they had not been very helpful and now they were sorry. It was not fair that she did all of the work.

"We're sorry, Little Red Hen," her friends said. "We promise to help you from now on! We will do the dishes and clean the yard so you can rest. You have worked very hard and we want to help!"

And they did, so the Little Red Hen shared her delicious, piping hot bread. From then on, everybody shared the work, and everybody shared the bread.

CHARACTER COUNTS!® WEEK

Little Red Hen



These materials are presented by:



The Robert D. and
Billie Ray Center

2507 University Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50311
Phone: 515-271-1910
Email: raycenter@drake.edu
www.drake.edu/raycenter
www.charactercounts.org

CHARACTER COUNTS! and Pursuing Victory With Honor are housed at The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. As a global initiative that transforms lives and strengthens communities, CHARACTER COUNTS! supports our mission to improve civility through character development and ethical leadership.

CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Six Pillars of Character are trademarks of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.