

# CHOOSE TO BE NICE<sup>®</sup>

LEARNING ACTIVITY GUIDE - SECOND GRADE

## HONESTY



**HANNAH THE HONESTY MOUSE**  
is always truthful.



### WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Student-centered activities designed to promote lifelong social and emotional intelligence
- Book recommendations + literacy activities
- Home connections + tips for parents

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TO BE NICE<sup>®</sup>**



Welcome to the Second Grade Honesty Learning Activities!

This month, your school community will be emphasizing the importance of honesty. Use this Learning Activity Guide to help students understand and embrace honesty through an engaging video or audio recording, a children's book, a lesson, discussion questions, extension ideas, bonus materials, and at-home engagement. These fun and student-centered activities are cross-curricular and include opportunities for children to collaborate and work independently, exercise their literacy skills and creativity, and develop social and emotional awareness.

The Choose To Be Nice® school program is a comprehensive and engaging SEL (social and emotional learning) program that focuses on the nine important values of respect, kindness, acceptance, teamwork, honesty, responsibility, friendship, patience, and courage. Schools focus on one value per month, and all program components are designed to foster empathy, kindness, and lifelong values that will help children become resilient and compassionate individuals. All learning activities are aligned with the five core social-emotional learning competencies identified by CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning), the nation's leading organization advancing the development of academic, social, and emotional competence for all students. As students go through the Choose To Be Nice program and learn and practice the Choose To Be Nice values, they are building their skills in the five competencies: self-management, self-awareness, responsible decision making, relationship skills, and social awareness.



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# GETTING STARTED

## OUR VALUES

Choose To Be Nice promotes its mission with these nine important values:

**RESPECT** - be polite and show consideration for others and their differences

**KINDNESS** - be nice and friendly to people wherever you go

**ACCEPTANCE** - appreciate and recognize people for who they are

**TEAMWORK** - collaborate and work together with others

**HONESTY** - be truthful and fair

**RESPONSIBILITY** - be accountable for your own actions

**FRIENDSHIP** - be a friendly companion other people want to be around

**PATIENCE** - be calm and understand that some things take time and endurance

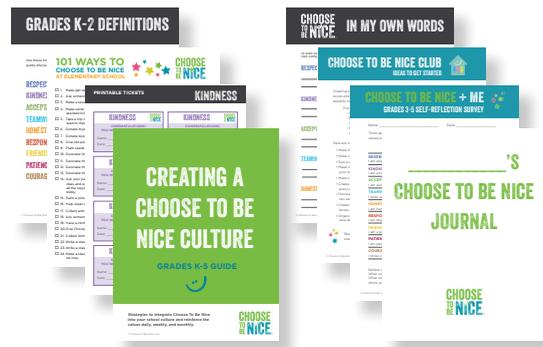
**COURAGE** - be brave and dare to be nice even when it's hard

# GETTING STARTED

## ONLINE RESOURCES

Resources for educators and families are available to download on our website.

**Educator Resources Page:** The entire Choose To Be Nice curriculum, along with supporting documents, additional student worksheets, at home activity guides, bonus materials, and this guide, are all available on our website on the Educator Resources Page. To access materials visit: [www.choosetobenice.com/educator-resources](http://www.choosetobenice.com/educator-resources). Use password: **CTBNschool25-26**.



**Family Resources Page:** Please be sure to direct your families to our online **Family Resources Page**, where we have additional engaging and fun at home activities for families, as well as tips and other resources. Families can access the activities at: [www.choosetobenice.com/home-community-resources/](http://www.choosetobenice.com/home-community-resources/).



# GETTING STARTED

## SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

Here is a suggested schedule to follow for Second Grade Honesty Month:

### Prior To Week One:

- Send home the Choose To Be Nice At Home Activity Book (Second Grade Honesty) available on the Educator Resources Page
- Have books from the suggested book list readily available for your students

### Week One:

- Play Hannah's video found on the Educator Resources Page
- Practice the Honesty Chant
- Honesty Learning Activity: Letter To Ruthie

### Week Two:

- Have Group Discussions about honesty

### Week Three:

- Have students reflect on and write about honesty during journal time. Journal covers and pages are available to download from the Educator Resources Page

### Week Four:

- Honesty Extension Activity

## CHOOSE TO BE NICE AT HOME ACTIVITY BOOK

Essential to adopting any new behaviors is making sure the learning reaches home. **Choose To Be Nice At Home Activity Books** help to reinforce the Choose To Be Nice values and encourage positive dialogue at home. Each Guide includes a note to parents/guardians, a fun activity, a chant for younger students, discussion questions, a coloring page and a poster. Be sure to send this guide home prior to starting this month's learning activities.



## HANNAH THE HONESTY MOUSE VIDEO

In this short video, **Hannah the Honesty Mouse** introduces younger students to the concept of honesty through everyday examples and builds excitement for additional learning and exploration. The video includes a chant to help kids remember to be honest and offers a foundation for classroom discussions and activities on honesty. Be sure to play this video prior to starting this month's learning activities.



## HANNAH THE HONESTY MOUSE CHANT

Each Choose To Be Nice value has a chant to help younger students in PreK-2 remember key concepts. Here is Hannah The Honesty Mouse's chant:

*Tell the truth and play fair!*

*Just follow Hannah, she always cares.*

All At Home Activity Guides, videos, and chants are available on our website on the [Educator Resources Page](#). Password is CTBNschool25-26.

# HANNAH THE HONESTY MOUSE

## is always truthful.

**BOOK SUGGESTION:**

**Ruthie And The (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie**, By Laura Rankin

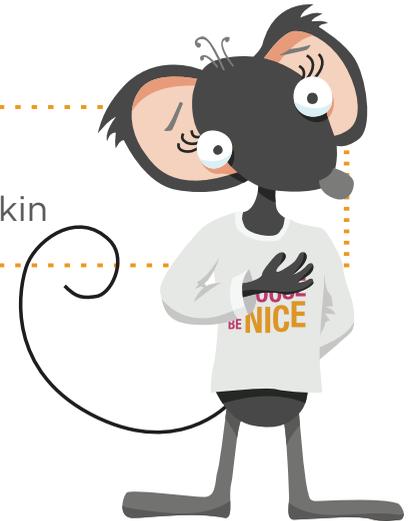
**LEARNING ACTIVITY:** Letter To Ruthie**SUBJECT CONNECTIONS:** English Language Arts**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Copies of the Letter To Ruthie template

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Introduce students to Hannah the Honesty Mouse by playing Hannah's video.

Next, read **Ruthie And The (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie** together. After reading, ask the class to discuss how Ruthie was feeling during different parts of the story, and why. For example: *How does Ruthie feel when she finds the camera? How does she feel when she tells Martin the camera is hers? How would Ruthie have felt differently as the day went on if she had told Martin the truth?*

Next, provide copies of the Letter to Ruthie template to each student. Explain that they will write letters to Ruthie that include advice on honesty and why it is important to be honest in the future. Remind students to use complete sentences. When students are done writing, invite them to share their letters with the class.



Use with SECOND GRADE HONESTY activity: Letter to Ruthie

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\_\_\_\_\_

*Date*

Dear Ruthie,

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (K-2)

Use these questions to engage students in thoughtful discussions about honesty.

- When is it difficult to be honest? Why?
- What would happen if people could only ever tell the truth?
- What might happen if you tell a lie, even a small lie?
- Tell about a time when someone was dishonest with you. How did it make you feel?
- What does honesty mean?
- What does dishonesty mean?
- How can you be honest at school?
- How can you be honest at home?

## SOCIAL STORIES (K-2)

Social Stories are fun and engaging short stories that show a Choose To Be Nice value in action. Read the story out loud and use the questions to prompt meaningful discussion.

**Story #1:** Sasha was walking back to her classroom from the restroom when she noticed a bag of chips on the floor outside Mr. Brock's door. Someone must have dropped them on their way into the classroom. They were her favorite flavors. Sasha thought about how yummy they would be with her sandwich at lunch and decided to put them in her pocket. When she returned to her classroom, she put them in her cubby. When it was time for lunch, her class lined up at the door to go to the cafeteria. When her class exited their classroom, she could see Mr. Brock talking to a student about the chips. The student was crying. Sasha felt bad, but did not want anyone to think that she stole them. He had just found them on the ground. Sasha tried to make herself feel better by thinking that if the student really wanted the chips, they could have been more responsible with them. It did not work. She raised her hand and asked her teacher if she could go talk to Mr. Brock. She told Mr. Brock what happened and handed over the chips. Mr. Brock thanked her and so did the student.

- *What did Sasha do that was dishonest? What did she do that was honest? How did Sasha show honesty?*
- *Do you think it was hard for Sasha to tell the truth? Why or why not?*

- *What would have happened if Sasha had kept the chips herself? How would she have felt? How would the student have felt?*
- *Would anyone have known what Sasha did if she had not told the truth? Was it a good idea to tell the truth?*
- *What would you have done if you were Sasha?*
- *What would you have done if you were the student who lost the chips?*

**Story #2:** Avion’s jaw hit the floor when Taquan walked into the classroom that morning. Taquan had clearly gotten a haircut the evening before, but it was not a good one. It looked like someone had cut a little too much in a spot on the back of his head. Avion said, “Taquan, what happened to your hair? It’s all messed up!” Several other students looked up and started laughing. Taquan put his hood over his head and covered his head with his arms. Mrs. Williams called Taquan and Avion to her desk. She first asked Taquan what was going on. He told her that he had sneezed when his mom was cutting his hair, and she accidentally cut it a little too close. She tried to fix it, but she could not. Then, Mrs. Williams turned to Avion.

Avion immediately said, “I was just being honest. His hair is messed up! You told us we should always be honest!” Mrs. Williams replied, “Yes, you should always be honest, but sometimes it is better to not say anything. His haircut is clearly different than he had hoped, but you did not need to draw attention to it by talking about it. You could have said nothing about it or you could have asked him about it privately. Sometimes saying things, even if they are true, can hurt others’ feelings.”

- *Was Avion being honest?*
- *How did Avion’s honesty affect Taquan?*
- *What could Avion have done differently?*
- *Has someone ever said something to you that was true but still hurt your feelings?*
- *Have you ever said something that was true but still hurt another person’s feelings?*
- *When is it important to be honest?*
- *When is it better to not say anything at all rather than say something, even if it is true?*

## EXTENSION IDEAS

Use these Extension Ideas to extend and reinforce the learning anytime throughout the month and year.

- Have students write a creative story in their CTBN Journal with the title “Honesty Is the Best Policy.” Their stories may be fictional or based on a true scenario, but they need to show how a character learned about honesty. Guide them through the writing process, starting with prewriting to map out their plot and characters, an outline, a draft, and then revisions. In between each step, have students work in small groups or pairs to peer-edit and provide honest, but constructive, feedback.

## ADDITIONAL BOOKS LIST - HONESTY (K-2)

Use these additional books to reinforce the concept of honesty.

**Franklin Fibs**, By Paulette Bourgeois

**Boy Who Cried Wolf**, By BG Hennessy

**The Principal’s New Clothes**, By Stephanie Calmenson

**The Big Fat Enormous Lie**, By Marjorie Weinman

**Sharmat Eli’s Lie-O-Meter**, By Sandra Levins

**The Grizzly Bear Who Lost His GRRRRR**, By Rob Biddulph

**Pinky Promise**, By Vanita Braver

## BONUS MATERIALS

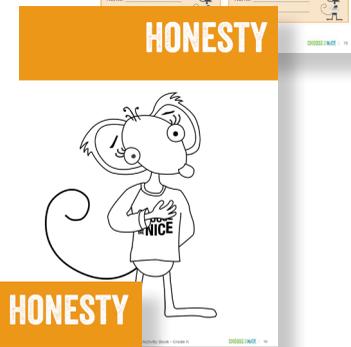
**Award Certificates:** Choose To Be Nice Award Certificates are a great way to promote a positive school culture and reinforce the Choose To Be Nice value of the month. Use the Honesty Award Certificate to recognize those students for consistently being honest and showing honesty with others.



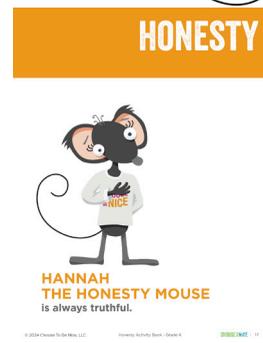
**Reward Tickets:** Keep a stack of Honesty Tickets handy. When you observe a student showing honesty through actions, words, or interactions, award them a ticket. Empowering students to award these tickets to their peers is a great way to encourage them to recognize and value honest behavior in different situations. Consider setting up a system where tickets can be exchanged for small rewards or privileges.



**Coloring Page:** Students can use coloring pages during quiet time. Display completed pages around the classroom to celebrate students' understanding and commitment to honesty.



**Poster:** Hang the poster in your classroom as a visual reminder of the importance of honesty. Use the poster to spark meaningful discussions about honesty.



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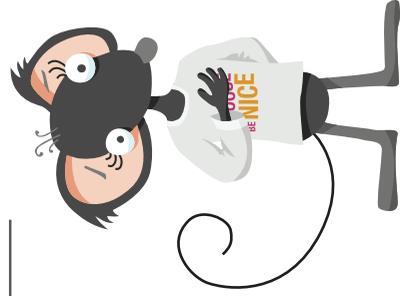


# HONESTY AWARD

*This award is being presented to*

*for being truthful and fair.*

*Keep up the good work!!*



# HONESTY

CHOOSE  
TO BE NICE

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU WERE  
CAUGHT BEING HONEST

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# HONESTY

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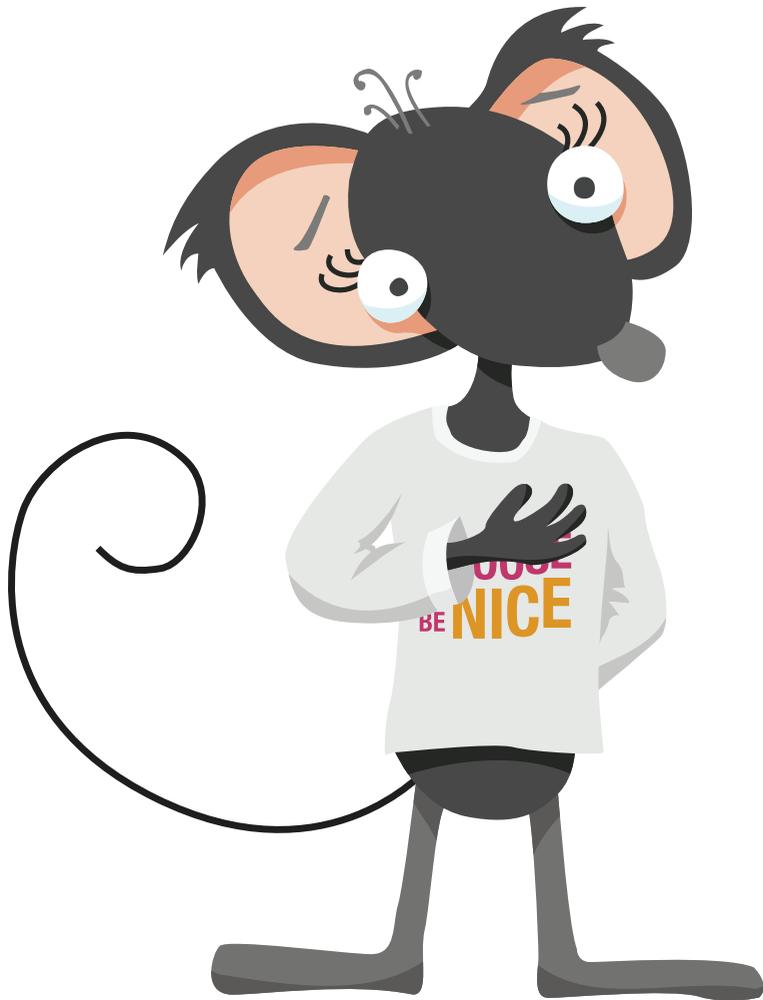
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