

Sample Curriculum Pages!

NINE NICE MICE[®]

K-2 LEARNING ACTIVITY GUIDE



**RYAN THE
RESPECTFUL MOUSE**



**KIERA THE
KINDNESS MOUSE**



**ALEX THE
ACCEPTANCE MOUSE**



**TYLER THE
TEAMWORK MOUSE**



**HANNAH THE
HONESTY MOUSE**



**RILEY THE
RESPONSIBLE MOUSE**



**FELIPE THE
FRIENDSHIP MOUSE**



**PRIA THE
PATIENT MOUSE**



**CAMERON THE
COURAGEOUS MOUSE**

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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

**CHOOSE
TO BE NICE[®]**



Dear Educator,

Welcome to the Choose To Be Nice community! I am thrilled that you have chosen to use the **K-2 Nine Nice Mice Learning Activity Guide** with your students.

This guide will help children learn about what it means to **Choose To Be Nice** through the **Nine Nice Mice**® and activities that teach about the nine values that are important to them. Children will learn about, and have opportunities to practice, **respect, kindness, acceptance, teamwork, honesty, responsibility, friendship, patience, and courage.**

These fun, student-centered activities are designed to foster empathy, kindness, and lifelong values that will help children become resilient and compassionate individuals. Not only that, but the activities will help you and your students build literacy and other subject-specific skills, making it easy to fit into your daily curriculum.

I hope you and your students have fun learning about these important values through the **Nine Nice Mice**®. By holding these values close to their hearts and keeping them in mind when making daily decisions, your students will be “Choosing To Be Nice”!

Your Friend,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dina Creiger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dina Creiger

Founder, Choose To Be Nice

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GETTING STARTED

ABOUT CHOOSE TO BE NICE:

MISSION

Choose To Be Nice is a social movement and global call to action dedicated to encouraging and inspiring kindness. Our aim is to improve the way people interact with each other by reminding them that they have a choice about how to “be” in the world.

And it all starts with a simple promise:

“I promise to help spread kindness wherever and whenever possible. And to the very best of my ability I’ll be nice to those with whom I come into contact on a daily basis.”

VISION

Our goal is to get at least one million people from around the world to make the **Choose To Be Nice** promise. Your school is now part of this movement as an official **Choose To Be Nice** school and has joined a growing global community.

Our program is built on a very simple, yet positive, powerful and proactive message of being nice. Schools across the country have joined the movement, and thousands of people across the world have made the promise. We are so happy that you’ve joined our family!

To learn more about Choose To Be Nice, visit our website www.choosetobenice.com.

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 helpful to others and 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

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

This guide is designed for educators of Kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade. Students will be introduced to the **Nine Nice Mice**[®] and the values that they each represent through engaging, fun, and reflective activities.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES: There are nine learning activities for each grade level (one for each of the **Choose To Be Nice** values) that can be completed in the classroom or after school. All learning activities feature a literacy activity along with a book suggestion. Additional subject connections vary from activity to activity but include Visual Arts, Social Studies, Physical Education, and Science. Collaborating with your fellow teachers is encouraged!

Activities are student-centered, inquiry-led, involve independent and collaborative learning, and focus on building the important and lifelong skills of social and emotional intelligence and self-awareness.

LEARNING STANDARDS: While activities don't call out specific learning standards, they have been designed to align to subject-specific benchmarks for each grade level, and common learning expectations. Activities have been reviewed by educators and are developmentally appropriate.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Activities use materials that most teachers have on hand.

BOOK LIST: Additionally, all learning activities use a different children's book to introduce and teach about the focus of the lesson. A complete list of books is listed on pages 8-10. Book suggestions are likely to be found in your school or local library, and are available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

NINE NICE MICE[®]: The **Nine Nice Mice**[®] will take you and your students on a journey throughout this curriculum. Use the included set of **Nine Nice Mice**[®] posters with each learning activity. Hang them in your classroom, and reference them frequently throughout your teaching.

GETTING STARTED

PACING: This program is designed to be taught over a nine-month period, but please feel free to adapt it to meet your needs. Each activity on average should take anywhere from 40 to 60 minutes.

LONG-TERM IMPACT: After completing each activity, it will be important to revisit and engage your students in group discussions throughout the year about how embracing each value will help them **Choose To Be Nice**.

EXTENSION IDEAS: To extend the learning beyond the activity, extension ideas have been offered. These can be conducted any time of the year.

HOME CONNECTIONS: Essential to adopting any new behaviors is to make sure the learning reaches home. Each activity includes a home connection which will involve parents/guardians and engage them with their child about what they are learning. In addition, an introductory letter for parents/guardians is included in the **Appendix** of this guide should you wish to use it.

APPENDIX: Reproducible handouts and forms used in conjunction with specific lessons are included in the **Appendix**, found at the end of this guide starting on page 61. Included is a letter you can customize and send home to parents/guardians at the start of the year or program.



GETTING STARTED

NINE NICE MICE® BOOK LIST

Each learning activity for each grade includes a unique book suggestion. This list has been selected to introduce the nine values for each age group. If you have trouble finding a book from the list below, please contact us at orders@choosetobenice.com and we can help you. If you would like more literary options, please choose from additional suggestions on pages 9-10.

RESPECT

- (K) **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**, By Mara Alperin
- (1) **Officer Buckle and Gloria**, By Peggy Rathmann
- (2) **Thank You, Mr. Falker**, By Patricia Polacco

KINDNESS

- (K) **The Kindness Quilt**, By Nancy Wallace
- (1) **Kindness Is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler**, By Margery Cuyler & Sachiko Yoshikawa
- (2) **If Kids Ran The World**, By Leo and Diane Dillon

ACCEPTANCE

- (K) **The Crayon Box That Talked**, By Shane Derolf
- (1) **It's Ok To Be Different**, By Todd Parr
- (2) **The Recess Queen**, By Alexi O'Neill

TEAMWORK

- (K) **Camille's Team**, By Stuart J. Murphy
- (1) **Officer Buckle and Gloria**, By Peggy Rathmann
- (2) **The Biggest Pumpkin Ever**, By Steven Kroll

HONESTY

- (K) **The Berenstain Bears and The Truth**, By Stan and Jan Berenstain
- (1) **The Empty Pot**, By Demi
- (2) **Ruthie And The (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie**, By Laura Rankin

GETTING STARTED

RESPONSIBILITY

- (K) **Katy And The Big Snow**, By Virginia Lee Burton
- (1) **Can I Keep Him?** By Steven Kellog
- (2) **Three Bears In A Boat**, By David Soman

FRIENDSHIP

- (K) **The Rainbow Fish**, By Marcus Pfister
- (1) **Chester's Way**, By Kevin Henkes
- (2) **Days With Frog And Toad**, By Arnold Lobel

PATIENCE

- (K) **Leo The Late Bloomer**, By Robert Kraus
- (1) **The Carrot Seed**, By Ruth Krauss
- (2) **Henry The Impatient Heron**, By Donna Love

COURAGE

- (K) **Sheila Rae, The Brave**, By Kevin Henkes
- (1) **Brave Irene**, By William Steig
- (2) **The Story Of Ruby Bridges**, By Robert Coles

ADDITIONAL BOOK SUGGESTIONS

RESPECT

- Mr. Lincoln's Way**, By Patricia Polacco
- Just Plain Fancy**, By Patricia Polacco

KINDNESS

- Chrysanthemum**, By Kevin Henkes (also works for **RESPECT**)
- I Like The Way You Are**, By Eve Bunting

ACCEPTANCE

- Tacky The Penguin**, By Helen Lester
- Oliver Button Is A Sissy**, By Tomie dePaola

GETTING STARTED

TEAMWORK

It's Mine, By Leo Lionni

Pumpkin Soup, By Helen Cooper

HONESTY

Franklin Fibs, By Paulette Bourgeois

Boy Who Cried Wolf, By BG Hennessy

The Principal's New Clothes, By Stephanie Calmenson

RESPONSIBILITY

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, By Kevin Henkes

It Wasn't My Fault, By Helen Lester

The Year Of Billy Miller, By Kevin Henkes

The Summer My Father Was Ten, By Pat Brisson

FRIENDSHIP

George And Martha: The Complete Stories Of Two Best Friends, By James Marshall

The Best Friends Book, By Todd Parr

PATIENCE

If You Want To See A Whale, By Julie Fogliano

If You Hold A Seed, By Elly MacKay

COURAGE

Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon, By Patty Lovell

Enemy Pie, By Derek Munson

Henry's Freedom Box, By Ellen Levine



Have more book suggestions?
Let us know by sending them to educators@choosetobenice.com.

GETTING STARTED

CONNECT WITH THE CHOOSE TO BE NICE COMMUNITY:

Now that you are part of the **Choose To Be Nice** community, let's stay in touch!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- Have feedback or suggestions for us on the program and activities?
- Want to be part of our **Educator Advisory Board**?
- Want to connect with other **Choose To Be Nice** teachers?

Reach out to us at educators@choosetobenice.com. Include your full name, school, city and state. In return and in appreciation for your periodic feedback, we'll send you a **Choose To Be Nice** gift and coupon!

Find out more about what **Choose To Be Nice** is doing and how our movement is spreading by visiting our website at www.choosetobenice.com.

Connect with us on social media! Upload your photos with the hashtag **#choosetobenice** and share.



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Choosetobenice>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/choosetobenice>



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChooseToBeNice>



Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/ChooseToBeNice/>

MEET THE NINE NICE MICE[®]

- 1. RYAN THE RESPECTFUL MOUSE**
is always polite.
- 2. KIERA THE KINDNESS MOUSE**
spreads kindness wherever she goes.
- 3. ALEX THE ACCEPTANCE MOUSE**
is always accepting of others' differences.
- 4. TYLER THE TEAMWORK MOUSE**
remembers that working together is very important.
- 5. HANNAH THE HONESTY MOUSE**
is always truthful.
- 6. RILEY THE RESPONSIBLE MOUSE**
tries to be helpful to her friends and family.
- 7. FELIPE THE FRIENDSHIP MOUSE**
remembers that the friendlier he is the more fun he has.
- 8. PRIA THE PATIENT MOUSE**
remembers that by having patience she can accomplish anything.
- 9. CAMERON THE COURAGEOUS MOUSE**
always chooses to be nice, even in the most difficult situations.

RESPECT



RYAN
THE RESPECTFUL MOUSE
is always polite.

RYAN THE RESPECTFUL MOUSE

is always polite.

BOOK SUGGESTION: *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, By Mara Alperin



LEARNING ACTIVITY: What Does Respect Look and Sound Like?

SUBJECT CONNECTIONS: English Language Arts, Math

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Chart paper
- Choose To Be Nice Stickers

INSTRUCTIONS: After reading *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, have students sit in a circle. First ask: *What does respect mean?* Next invite children to brainstorm what **respect** looks like (e.g., looking at someone when talking to them, sharing, listening when someone is talking, patiently waiting to take a turn) and what it sounds like (e.g., using manners, talking with a calm voice). Record their ideas on chart paper in two columns. This can hang in the classroom to serve as a reminder to students for the entire month or school year. Explain to students that you will be looking for them to demonstrate different ways of being respectful, and if they're spotted being respectful they will receive a Choose To Be Nice sticker.

EXTENSION IDEAS:

- Collaborate with the music or performing arts teacher to have children come up with a chant, song, or dance to show what respect sounds and looks like.
- Have students count and add to the ways they have seen people being respectful at the end of each week. Each time a new idea is suggested, add it to the chart. Encourage students to share using complete sentences (who, what, when, where).
- Continue awarding stickers for the month or the entire school year. Recognize or hand out respect rewards to students who reach 5, 10, 15, 20...stickers.

HOME LINK

Include in a note home to parents/guardians that students are working on being more respectful and that it would be helpful if they could reinforce this at home too. You can include a photograph of the 'What Does Respect Look and Sound Like?' chart in the note home. Ask parents/guardians to share one way the student is being respectful and polite at home through a photo or note.