



THE BANDAID LESSON

The Band Aid Lesson is a memorable community-building activity that helps students understand that fairness doesn't always mean everyone gets the same thing. It creates a shared language for discussing accommodations, scaffolds, and individualized support throughout the school year.



WHAT?

Students are given different pretend "injury" scenarios (e.g., paper cut, headache, broken leg, sprained ankle). Regardless of their injury, everyone receives the exact same solution: a Band-Aid on their hand. As students begin to question why the Band-Aid doesn't solve every problem, the teacher guides a discussion about fairness, equity, and meeting individual needs.

WHEN?

Great for students at **any grade level**:

- Beginning of the school year
- Establishing classroom expectations & community
- Introducing accommodations or special education supports
- SEL lessons about empathy & inclusion
- Reinforcing the purpose of differentiated instruction
- Revisiting classroom norms

WHY?

- Helps students understand that **fair doesn't always mean equal**.
- Builds empathy and acceptance for accommodations, scaffolds, and individualized supports.
- Creates a common **classroom reference** that can be **revisited throughout the year** when discussing student needs.

HOW?

1. Assign each student a pretend injury.
2. Give every student the exact same solution: a Band-Aid on their hand.
3. Allow students to react and discuss why the solution doesn't work for everyone.
4. Facilitate a conversation about fairness, equity, and individualized supports.
5. Create an anchor chart that can be referenced throughout the year.

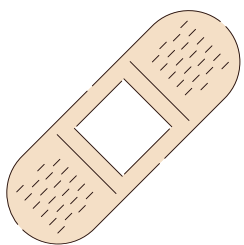
TEACHER TALK:

"Does fair always mean everyone gets the same thing?"

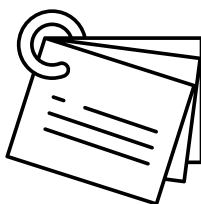
"Did receiving a bandaid solve every person's problem?"

"Fair means everyone gets what they need to learn & grow."

MATERIALS



1 per student



injury scenario cards (optional)

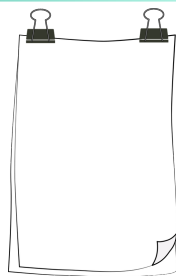


chart paper

BIG IDEA

In this classroom, everyone gets what they need to learn, even when that support looks different.