



THINGS TO DO ON MY FIRST DAY IN OFFICE

(20-25 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students think up ways to improve their communities as if they were mayor and then envision their own role in making things better.

MATERIALS

Things To Do On My First Day In Office handout; writing and drawing materials

GET READY

- ✓ Duplicate the *Things To Do On My First Day In Office* handout for each student in your class.
- ✓ Prepare a Kids Voting bulletin board area to display the papers.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Say, *Have you ever wondered what the mayor of our community does? What do you think he does?* Listen to responses.
- ✓ While students brainstorm several of the mayor's jobs, write them on the board. They may include planning, listening to people's problems, getting things built for the community, etc.
- ✓ Distribute the handouts and say, *I want you to pretend that each of you has just been elected mayor of our city! Tomorrow will be your first day in office. What do you need to do, and want to do, starting tomorrow?*
- ✓ The students will list their priorities and, if they wish, color or decorate their papers.

- ✓ Have your students pair up to exchange papers. Each student should select their favorite idea from the other person's list.
- ✓ Make a master list of suggestions on the board.
- ✓ Ask your students if there are any suggestions on the board that they can do now; they can act on one of the suggestions, depending on its feasibility.
- ✓ Display the papers on your Kids Voting bulletin board, labeling them with the children's last names: "Mayor Smith," "Mayor Johnson," etc.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What are the qualifications you need to be the real mayor of our town?* (Review these for your community. Generally, you must be a resident for a specified time and a registered voter.)
- ★ *In what ways can you help to make the plans for our community come true?* (Choose some of the students' plans and brainstorm children's roles in bringing them about. Example: "Make our town cleaner" can translate into "We will never throw litter in the streets.")

MORE!

Students can send their papers to the mayor or they can summarize their plans in a classroom letter. Mail the letter to the mayor's office or send it via e-mail.

Thanks to Carol Sharkey of Providence Day School, Charlotte, North Carolina, for this activity.

