TIM HANNIG THE PRO-KIDS SHOW





Dear Valued Teacher,

In the last 30 years, I've performed thousands of school shows, and if there's one thing that I know, it's that teachers are BUSY! So, thanks for "choosing" to look at this guide and for watching The Pro-Kids Show! You see, our program is all about "choices" -- and encouraging kids to make the right ones.

The show is designed to be more than just an entertaining diversion or an "educational" school assembly. Its' purpose is to help students grow by emphasizing the importance of the development of their personal character. Of course, it's always a big bonus when I can get kids excited about math and science as well.

As you know, education is more than simply preparing students for their next grade level. At its heart, education has the goal of preparing students to live successfully. Understanding life's most basic character values gives a child the firm foundation upon which to build productive life.

But a major concern has always been, "How should these characters traits be taught? Well, it has often been said, "Character is not taught - it is caught!" In other words, children learn what they live in daily experience. And the best way for children to learn to appreciate a value is to exposed to it often, in a variety of forms and applications.

So, the aim of THE PRO-KIDS SHOW is to relate basic character traits and concepts for successful living to child's level of understanding, through the use of entertainment and involvement.

We are eager for the result of THE PRO-KIDS SHOW to last beyond the program's initial excitement. It is our goal that the concepts presented in the program will last for your school year and beyond. Thus, we have prepared this discussion guide for your use. By giving time to classroom follow-up you can greatly increase the impact of this program. Participation is the key - allowing students to share their excitement and their enthusiasm with the class. This Teacher's Guide outlines the themes and messages presented in the show, suggesting activities for your creative use later in the day.

When you are done discussing the show, take a look at the last page of this guide. It might be fun to have students try it to see where their choices lead them. What a great reminder to "Plant Good and Grow Great!"

Enjoy! Tim Hannig

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SEED OF RESPECT

TIM'S SHOW:



Pro-Kids, Hey Get Ready! Pro-Kids, It's Where we Begin!



WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Let's begin with the name of the show. What does "PRO" mean? It means to be "for" something. So, we are "for kids." Tim also said that the letters stand for "People Respecting Others." Part of that is treating others the way you want to be treated — even if they are different from you. Name some things you can do to show respect to yourself and to others.

LET'S GROW ACTIVITY

- If you could perform your own magic show to teach others to show respect, what name would you give to your show?
- Draw a picture of yourself on stage performing your magic show.

QUOTE: "The only way to have a friend is to be one." - RALPH WALDO EMERSON



SEED OF COURAGE

TIM'S SHOW:

In the story, the children did not know that the King had given them fake flower seeds. It was impossible for the seeds to grow. Freddy was the only one with enough courage to appear before the king with an empty flower pot. For his courage and his honesty he was rewarded.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

- In the story, what great prize were the children trying to win by growing beautiful flowers?
- When at first Freddy's seeds did not grow, what did he do?
- When Freddy could not get the seeds to grow with hard work, what choice did he make? How would you feel going before the President of the United States as the only one with an empty pot? What other choices could Freddy have made?



SEEDS OF KINDNESS & EMPATHY

TIM'S SHOW:

In the case of the teacher's ring, everyone worked together, made good choices, and solved the problem of the missing ring.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

- The things that we learn at school are most useful when we apply what we learn so that we can make right choices everyday. That's how we really plant the seeds of character.
- What does it mean to make right choices?
- What have you learned at school this month that can help you to make right choices?

Remember what Tim asked at the end:

- Is it ever right to be unkind to someone? NO!
- Should we care about the feelings of others... showing empathy? YES!
- And... we can always show that we are ready to HELP!

Remember, do what's RIGHT, with all your MIGHT!

LET'S GROW ACTIVITY

Make a classroom poster called "Doing What's Right!"

- Challenge the students to draw pictures on the poster of people making right choices.
- On a separate poster, start posting people who do what is right. These can be people from history as well as people at school or in the classroom.
- This will help students visualize themselves as kids who can possess great character. Tim says, "You can be someone to admire, but the choice is yours. Making right choices every day is your responsibility."

QUOTE: "To know what is right and not to do. It is the worst cowardice." - Confucius



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Exploring the Growing and Shrinking Head Illusion

Objective:

To help students understand the science behind the optical illusion they saw during the Pro-Kids Show and connect it to real-world scientific principles.

TIM'S SHOW:

- In the show, you stared at a spinning spiral for about 30 seconds.
- Afterward, when you looked at someone's head or another object, it appeared to either grow larger or shrink smaller, depending on the direction the spiral was spinning.
- This strange effect happened without anything actually changing size—it was all in your brain!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

The Science Behind the Illusion:

- Motion Aftereffect: Your brain is like a supercomputer that processes visual information. When you stare at the spinning spiral, your brain gets used to the movement and "adapts." This is called motion adaptation.
- When you suddenly look away, your brain keeps expecting the motion to continue. This creates the illusion that objects are growing (if the spiral expanded) or shrinking (if it contracted).

How Your Eyes and Brain Work Together:

- Your eyes send information to your brain, but your brain decides what you actually "see."
 Sometimes, your brain fills in information or makes adjustments that aren't real.
- Optical illusions show us that what we see isn't always what's really happening—it's how our brain interprets the signals.

Real-World Connections:

- Roller Coasters: After riding a spinning ride, have you ever felt like the world is still moving? That's your brain adapting, just like in the illusion.
- Nature: Animals like hawks and owls process motion differently, helping them hunt while flying fast. Humans are wired differently, which is why we see these cool illusions!

LET'S GROW

1. Experiment with Motion Aftereffect:

 Draw a simple spiral on paper or use an online version. Let students stare at it and then look at different objects to recreate the effect. Have them describe what they see.

2. Design an Optical Illusion:

 Challenge students to create their own optical illusion, either by drawing or using simple patterns. Discuss how their designs trick the brain.

3. Compare Human Vision to Animals:

 Research how animals like chameleons or eagles process movement and compare it to humans. This connects science to biology and zoology.

Conclusion

The growing and shrinking head illusion is a great example of how our brains interpret the world around us. By understanding these principles, students can appreciate both the fun of magic and the fascinating science behind it.



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Objective:

To help students discover how math can be fascinating, fun, and even magical by analyzing the math trick Tim performed during the Pro-Kids Show.

TIM'S SHOW

- During the show, Tim showed the audience a board with 25 numbers on it.
- The audience worked together to select five numbers from the board. Amazingly, Tim predicted the total of these numbers before the numbers were even chosen!
- When Tim flipped over the chosen numbers, they spelled the word MAGIC, combining math, mystery, and surprise.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

The Math Behind the Magic:

- Patterns in Numbers: Tim's trick worked because of carefully planned patterns in the numbers on the board. He used a special method to ensure the numbers the audience picked would add up to his prediction.
- **Predictions in Math:** Math is a powerful tool for making predictions. Tim designed the board in such a way that he already knew what the total would be, even though the audience had free choices when choosing numbers.

Math in Everyday Magic:

- Hidden Math in Games: Many card tricks, puzzles, and board games use math principles to create excitement and surprises.
- Real-World Uses: Magicians like Tim aren't the only ones who use math this way—engineers, architects, and computer programmers also use math patterns to solve problems and design incredible things.

LET'S GROW!

1. Recognize Math Everywhere:

 Tim's trick showed that math isn't just about equations in a classroom. It's all around us in sports, music, video games, and even magic tricks.

2. Practice Problem-Solving:

 Tricks like the one Tim performed highlight how math encourages logical thinking and creativity. Solving math puzzles and challenges can help strengthen critical thinking skills.

3. Share the Wonder:

 Just like Tim shared his math magic, students can create their own tricks or puzzles to amaze friends and family. Exploring math in this way can make it fun and meaningful for everyone.

Find Math in the Real World:

 Assign students to find examples of math in real life, like how patterns and numbers are used in sports stats, building designs, or nature, and present their findings to the class.

Conclusion

Tim's math magic trick wasn't just entertaining—it was a powerful example of how math can be creative and surprising. By exploring patterns and problem-solving strategies, students can discover how math connects to their lives and opens up endless possibilities.

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