

**Activity: Kindness Theater****Focus:** Essential Employability Skills, Social/Emotional Learning**Grade Range:** K - 2nd**Time:** 30-40 minutes**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Begin today's lesson by asking the students if they have any pets! After allowing time for student answers, share with the students that today's story was written by an author who lives in Cincinnati—and she wrote the story about their family dog, Louie!
2. Read the book *Louie's Little Legs and the Magic of Kindness* aloud to students. \*Note: if the teacher approves, you can move the students to a "group" setting (carpet, reading space).
3. After finishing the book, choose a few questions from the discussion guide to talk about as a whole group (stick to 1-2 questions at this time).
4. After several student responses to the chosen questions, explain today's activity: students will be working in small groups to create their own kindness story using the characters from the book! They will write the story with their mentors and then have a chance to act it out for the class.
5. Separate students into 4 small groups according to how many students/mentors are present. Pair at least one mentor with each group (more can sit with a group if available). Each group will need 1 copy of the discussion guide and 1 copy of the Kindness Theater Story Map. Puppets can be split among the groups according to the amount of groups/students.
6. In your small group, give the students about 5 minutes to explore and play with the puppets. They may want to look at them, feel them, put them on, and pretend to be Louie, Stitchy, or Coco.
7. Move on to the story map. Instruct students to start by thinking about which characters from the book they want in their story. Mentors should write down ideas in each box after discussing the content with the students. Complete each box to construct the story. Try to have each student in the group have a "role" in the story. If Louie, Stitchy, or Coco are part of it, the puppets can be used during the "theater" portion by the students. (Groups will share puppets)
8. Be mindful of time—you'll want about 10 minutes for all groups to be able to perform their stories! As you wrap up the story maps, have students take a few minutes to practice the new story.
9. Once all groups are ready/time is up, have groups perform their stories one at a time for the whole group. They can stand in the front of the room, or wherever is a good place to be seen by everyone. \*Note: this is a great opportunity to talk about how to respond kindly to others when presenting (quiet and listening, clap when finished, etc.).
10. Finish up today's activities by talking together about kindness, ways to show kindness to others, and possible kind actions they can do at school or at home!

**SYNOPSIS**

Students will practice kindness today! During this lesson, they will discuss kindness and how they can show it in their lives. They will have the opportunity to create and act out scenarios that depict kindness.

**MATERIALS**

- Book: *Louie's Little Legs and the Magic of Kindness*
- 2 sets of C2C Louie Puppets
- 5 copies of "Louie's Little Legs Discussion Guide"
- 5 copies of "Kindness Theater Story Map"
- Students: Pencils

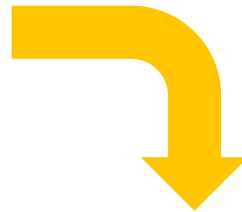
**TIPS**

- Possible addition to the story map creation: bring additional paper/supplies for students to create "props" or little accessories for their stories—not all students will be able to use a puppet during the presentations.

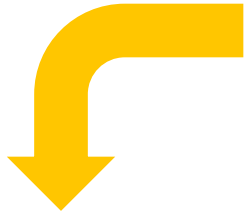


## KINDNESS STORY MAP

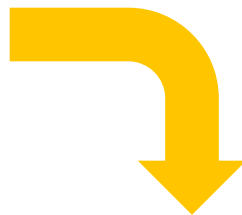
Who are the characters? (Louie, Stitchy, Coco)



What problem do they run into?



What kind thing will they do to help?



How does your story end?

## Louie's Little Legs and The Magic of Kindness



Read the book and/or watch the story time video, then discuss the questions below!



- ⊗ Do you have a friend like Louie's pal, Stitchy?
- ⊗ What makes them a good friend?
- ⊗ What were some differences between Louie and Stitchy?
- ⊗ What things did they enjoy doing together?
- ⊗ Why did Louie judge Coco the cat?
- ⊗ What did Louie learn about Coco the cat?
- ⊗ How did it make him feel when he understood she was lost?
- ⊗ How did Stitchy and Louie help Coco?
- ⊗ Can you think of a time you learned something new about a person? Did that help you to understand them better?
- ⊗ What lessons did Stitchy teach Louie about kindness?
- ⊗ What did Louie learn about Love?

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# Your 21-Day Path to Unleash Love



Write a thank you note to your teacher. Let them know how they help you.

Do a chore for someone without them knowing!

Today, smile at five or more people.

Tell someone what you like about them (do this one every day).

Suggest a game night and set it up.

Tell a funny joke and make someone laugh and smile.

Talk to someone new at school, or sit with someone new at lunch.

Write happy messages in chalk on public sidewalks like "you are loved."

Talk to an elderly person in your neighborhood who might be lonely.

Draw a flower and present it to someone.

Compliment a friend.

Pick up litter at your school or where you live.

Play with your younger siblings or a neighbor. You can try a fun game of make-believe!

Leave a classmate or friend a note letting them know you think they are a good person.

Ask your teacher if you can help them with a task.

Ask someone how their day is going.

Share a toy with a neighbor or friend.

Help clean up something without being asked.

Draw a picture or make something you can give to someone else to cheer them up.

## KEEP IT GOING...

- Send a postcard to someone you love.
- Put someone's newspaper on their porch
- Leave kindness notes for strangers, like in a restaurant or library book. Write something positive like "You're amazing!" or "Have a great day!"
- Separate your trash and recycle all your bottles, cans, paper, etc.

**Parents, Guardians, and Teachers:** Children may choose a random act of kindness for each day. Make sure they check them off when completed. If they need additional ideas, they can choose from the "Keep it Going" ideas.