**Classroom Counseling Lesson Plan**

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| **Lesson Title** | **Grade Range** | **Time Needed** |
| The Perfect Career Mix | 6-8 | 45 Minutes |

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| **Domain** | **Mindset Standards** | **Behavior Standards** |
| Career/ES | 1,2,3,4,5 | LS:1,3,6,9 SMS:1,5,7,10 SS: 1,2,3,4,6,7,9 |

**Learning Objectives:**

* Students will understand different skills employers look for
* Students will understand they need to be balanced individuals

**Supplies/Materials:**

* A package of Kool Aid (or similar drink mix) sugar, spoon to stir, water, a plastic picture (for each group of students) (this can be modified to use only one or two groups)
* Large sheets of paper each with a different career on it (one for each group of 3 to 4 students)
* Characteristics Employers Look for Handout

**Outline:**

1. Distribute Kool Aid supplies to the groups. (Provide one group with all the supplies they need, but the other groups should be missing one or two items.)
2. After giving groups supplies say, go ahead and make your Kool Aid… those groups missing things may ask questions about where the rest of their supplies are, just tell them “that is all I have” …
3. After a few minutes ask the groups “who was able to make the Kool Aid, discuss why some groups weren’t able to make it and discuss how it will taste if they are missing ingredients.
4. Talk about the perfect mix of supplies to make Kool Aid, pass out cups and let the students drink what is mixed, if the Kool Aid is missing something, add it.
5. Tell students that each of them is an individual and each of them has their perfect mix of characteristics that make them unique. If the entire class had the same characteristics it would be a pretty boring class.
6. Tell students that different careers also take the perfect mix of characteristics and there is a career for everyone.
7. Divide them into groups; each group will get a sheet of paper with a career at the top. Students will draw a person in the career printed on their paper. Around the person the students should put characteristics that person would need on his/her job. (optional: providing an example to better help the students understand what they are to do)
8. Distribute the handout; Characteristics Employers Look for handout for assistance
9. Have each group share their career person and characteristics when finished. (you can hang them on the wall or board to view while you discuss the following questions).
10. Discussion questions:
    1. What characteristics are useful in all jobs?
    2. What are some characteristics specific to the career you were given?
    3. What job might fit your personal characteristics?
    4. Can these characteristics change over time?
    5. Can we learn skills for a career that we don’t currently have?
    6. What is the difference between hard skills and soft skills?
    7. Personal thoughts: (students can journal or write these down)
       1. What do you want to be when you grow up?
       2. What characteristics that you have would help you do that job?
       3. What characteristics would you need to grow to do that job well?

*This lesson was adapted and modified from:*

Taylor, J.V., & Trice-Black, S., (2997). *GIRLS, grades 6-12: Group counseling activities for enhancing and social and emotional development*.

**Characteristics and Skills Employers Look For . . . .**

**Soft Skills:** Skills that are valuable for most jobs across settings.

* Self-motivation
* Initiative
* Flexible
* Conflict Resolution Skill
* Negotiation Skills
* Positive Attitude
* Problem Solving Skills
* Organized
* Multi-tasking
* Punctual
* Professional Behavior
* Reliable
* Honest
* Responsible
* Follows Direction
* Accepts Constructive Criticism
* Communication Skills
* Writing Skills
* Leadership Skills
* Team Work Skills

**Hard Skills:** Job specific skills that can be learned through instruction and practice.

* Computer Skills
* Physical Strength
* Mechanical Skills
* Reading Skills
* Mathematical Skills
* Accounting Skills
* Computer Programing Skills
* Teaching Skills
* Carpentry Skills
* Machinery Operating Skills
* Medical Knowledge
* Driving Skills
* Clinical/Therapy Skills
* Office Skills
* Animal Knowledge
* Diagnostic Skills