

# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

## SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

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SOCIAL SKILL: ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY  
CASEL COMPETENCY: RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

### BOOK INFORMATION

Book Title: *Horton Hatches the Egg*  
Author: Dr. Suess  
Publisher: Random House  
Year: 1940  
ISBN Number: 978-0394800776  
Number of Pages: 64 pages  
Reading Level: Kindergarten - 4<sup>th</sup> grade

### BOOK SYNOPSIS

Mayzie the bird is tired of sitting on her egg. She wants to take a vacation. Horton the elephant comes along and Mayzie asks him to sit on her egg. At first he doesn't want to, but eventually he concedes and says he will. Mayzie flies away. Horton goes through a lot of experiences while is sitting on the egg, but never leaves the egg because he made a promise. One day strangers come by and want to put Horton and his egg in the circus. Eventually, after an extended period of time Mayzie comes back and sees Horton still on her egg. She wants her egg back because it the egg is starting to hatch. Horton is upset. He put in all the work to help the egg and does not want to give it back to Mayzie. To everyone's surprise, when the egg hatches it is an elephant bird!

### LESSON OBJECTIVE

Taking responsibility for things can be very rewarding and teaches us how to help others. We become attached to what we are responsible for.

### LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCED PREPARATION

No materials or preparation needed.

### KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

**Murmur** - a mumble or softly spoken words (to yourself) that others usually aren't supposed to hear

**Faithful** - when you are true to what you say you will do

**Taunt** - to tease, bother, and mock someone

**Hatch** - when an egg starts to open up as the bird/reptile inside begins to crack through the shell

## PRE-READING DISCUSSION

Ask the students what they know about Horton. Show them the cover of the book and ask them what they think the story will be about.

## POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask your students the following questions:

- Why did Horton stay with the egg?
- How do you think Horton felt when he saw the elephant bird?
- How did Horton accept responsibility?
- How can we also be “faithful” like Horton?

## READ THE BOOK

## POST READING ACTIVITY

### Egg Debate

Split the class into two teams and have a debate on who (Mayzie or Horton) should get the egg. Whichever team the student is on, they must provide their very best persuasive arguments to indicate why their individual (Mayzie or Horton) should be the one who takes responsibility for caring for the egg. One team has to say why Mayzie should get the egg and the other team has to say why Horton should get the egg. Each team takes turns giving reasons. The adult (teacher or parent volunteer) controls the debate and asks probing questions as need. Make a list on the whiteboard—pros and cons for Mayzie and Horton getting the egg. After five minutes, switch and have students take the other side of the argument.

## CLOSURE

After the game, talk for a few minutes about the debate’s major points. How did the topic of responsibility play an important role in the discussion about who should take the egg? Explain that when we take responsibility we learn new things. We often surprise ourselves and others at how much we grow as a person when we learn to take responsibility. Explain that little children do not have much responsibility, but as we grow older we are able to take on more responsibility.

Post the reminder (poster) for children to refer to during the month. Review the social skill steps below for accepting responsibility.

### Accepting Responsibility Steps

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a calm body and voice.
3. Say what you are sorry about.
4. Say what you’ll do differently next time.



# Accept Responsibility