



Materials Needed:

Blank Y-Chart
Markers
Post-Its

Introducing the Y-Chart

Today we are going to create a our own “picture” of what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like when we are following the expectations for some of the procedures of our classroom. We are going to use what is called a “Y-Chart” to record our thoughts on one specific procedure we will use in this class.

Part of our daily routines will be to organize the class for working in groups. What are some things that we must to organize our class for this? (i.e., move desks/chairs, etc.) Remind students that we must always consider safety and being respectful when we think about procedures.

Label the blank Y-Chart – “Group Work”. Ask, *what will it look like and sound like when we move desks and chairs in a way that demonstrates respect for others?* As students brainstorm idea, list them in the appropriate space on the Y-Chart. Note: only include positive actions (i.e., walk quietly, hold chair at waist level, people helping each other, quiet voices. “excuse me’). After recording the looks like and feels like responses, ask students to describe what it will feel like when all of these criteria are met. (Example: It will feel safe, organized, and comfortable.) Record these responses in the “feels like” section of the Y-Chart.

Teacher Model – Model the procedure for moving a desk or chair for groups work following the Y-Chart ideas. Solicit student observations of your demonstration. Ask, *what did you notice about the way I moved my chair?* Listen to students’ observation. Ask a volunteer to do a student demonstration. Make sure that the volunteer follows the guidelines on the Y-Chart. *Who is willing to demonstrate how to move into groups?* After the student demonstration, ask, *what did it feel like when you followed the guideline?* (Student response should include safe, orderly, okay) After the teacher model and the student demonstration, have students practice moving the chairs into groups following the expectations from the Y-Chart. You might start with a group of four or five until all have practiced.

Explain that you will be using the Y-Chart to include their input in developing the procedures of the classroom. Remind students the Y-Chart will serve as a reminder of the standards that have been agreed upon by the group. This will be the visual reminder of what the community has agreed to when each activity occurs.





Use this process to introduce new classroom procedures. Post Y Charts in the room to remind students of the standards they created as a learning community. As you introduce new procedures, consider:

- *Which of our rules will it be important to follow when we do this activity?*
- *What social skills will be important to use in this activity?*
- *How will it look, sound, feel when this activity is done well?*
- *How can we (have fun; get good at; build relationships) in this activity?*

Key Points to Remember:

- You model or have a student model before everyone does the procedure.
- Help students reflect on the procedures/activity afterwards: *What rules did we follow during this game? What social skills do we need to play this game well? How did it look, sound, and feel while we were doing this activity?*

Modeling beforehand and processing afterwards increases the likelihood that an activity will go well.

