

## Class Rules Contract

### Character Skills

- Responsibility
- Respect

### SEL Skills

- Self-Management
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision-Making

### Academic Skills

- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Self-Direction and Engagement

### Quotation

"Who breaks his faith, no faith is held with him."

-Seigneur du Bartas, French poet (1544-1590)

### Activity

Children learn about a formal promise-keeping arrangement: a contract.

They prepare a contract concerning classroom rules and commit to uphold it.

### Materials

- One large sheet of paper
- One felt-tip marker
- Copies of the "Class Rules Contract" handout, one for each student

### Instructions

Ask the students if they know what a contract is. Through class discussion, help them understand that it is an agreement and a special kind of promise. Say: A contract is made when two or more people discuss a particular situation, decide what to do about that situation, and then promise each other they will do it. An oral contract is one that is spoken; the people tell each other what they will do. There are also written contracts. The people write what they will do, and then sign their names. Explain that signing one's name to a written contract means that you agree with what is written and you promise to do what it says.

Prepare a written contract for the class. Have the students choose the most important rules - rules they all agree to uphold. (Emphasize that it is up to each student to suggest changes if they don't agree with or aren't prepared to abide by certain rules.) List these on a large piece of paper. Then write, "I will follow these rules at school" (or wherever appropriate). Sign the contract yourself, and ask each of them to sign it. Post the contract in a conspicuous place to remind everyone of the commitments they made.

In addition to, or instead of the class contract, you might have each child make up their own document. Copy the "Class Rules Contract" or create your own. Have each student fill in the blanks with commitments they agree to keep. Then, sign your names. Have the students take these documents home for care givers' signatures.

# Class Rules Contract

I agree that class rules help the teacher and the students do their jobs. These are some rules we've decided on together. I agree with these rules and promise to stick to them:

Rule 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 4: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 5: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 6: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rule 7: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Youth Leader Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Definitions

### Responsibility

- Do what you are supposed to do; try your best
- Persevere; keep on trying
- Be self-disciplined
- Think before you act; consider the consequences
- Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes

### Respect

- Follow the Golden Rule
- Have integrity; do what you say you'll do
- Keep your promises
- Be loyal; stand by your values

### Self-Management

Regulate emotions, attitudes, and actions, and resist negative emotions and impulses

### Relationship Skills

Create positive relationships and meaningful connections with family members, classmates, and teachers

### Responsible Decision-Making

Make decisions based on rationality, ethics, and effectiveness

### Critical and Creative Thinking

Acquire, remember, understand, and apply knowledge

### Self-Direction and Engagement

Fully engaged in the educational process and connected to the school community

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