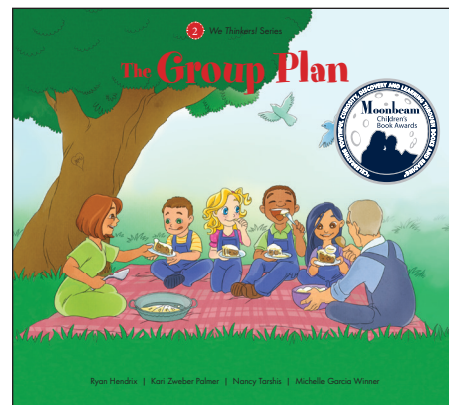


The Group Plan



Family Letter and At Home Activities

In our Social Thinking group today we talked about the **group plan**. In our story, Evan, Ellie, Jesse and Molly take a trip to the farm to make an apple pie and ice cream. They learn the difference between following their *own plan* versus the *group plan*. When one person followed his/her own plan, the group could not accomplish their goal. When they worked together and followed the group plan everyone felt good and they ended up with delicious treats to share.

In our group we use illustrations to show everyone thinking about the group plan together versus a person who is thinking about his/her own plan. (See the illustration below.) We talk about “the plan” as a way to help children know what they are expected to think about and do when they are working in a group. When everyone is following the plan, we are all thinking about each other. When we all think about each other, everyone feels good.

Suggested ways to extend learning about the Group Plan at home:

- Talk about “the plan” and what you are thinking. For example, “My plan is to make a snack.” “The plan is to go to the grocery store.” “The plan is to get ready for bed! Time to brush our teeth; follow the plan.”
- Talk about what each person can say and do so all share the same idea/plan. Consider the following examples: “I’m thinking of the plan to go to the grocery store. I’m getting my coat.” “Sayida is thinking about the group plan. She is helping to set the table for dinner.”
- Point out the times when you are all sharing one plan. Talk about how that makes you feel. For example, “We are following the plan to get ready to go to school. I put on my shoes. You put on your shoes too! That makes me feel happy. Now we’re ready to go.” Or use pictures and words.



Group plan/own plan illustration.

In the story, the group plan was to pick apples. Evan followed his own plan and pretended to drive a tractor.

Activity

1

At Home Activity: Following the Plan!

Anytime we do something together we are following a group plan. Reinforce the idea that children follow a plan when they are at home too, not just at school. At home a group plan might include cooking and eating dinner, folding laundry, raking leaves in the yard, going on a bicycle ride, or going to the grocery store. There is a connection between our behaviors and other people’s emotions. When we follow a group plan, it makes other people feel happy and makes us feel good too!

Draw a picture or take a photograph of a time when you did something together during the week. Some ideas include: playing a game, making a snack, eating dinner, going to the grocery store, or even sorting laundry! Draw a thought bubble and adhere the photograph or drawing into the bubble. Then draw yourselves in the boxes below the thought bubble to show you are thinking about the plan and activity. See the example below.

