

Integrity Ball

(Adapted from *Journey Toward the Caring Classroom* which adapted it from the activity “Fireball” in *Affordable Portables*)

Materials: A soft, throwable ball

Stand in a circle.

Have a short discussion on the definition of “integrity.” Basically a person of integrity is someone who always tries to do the right thing. Knowing that we are not all perfect, even people of integrity make mistakes, but people of integrity hold themselves accountable by admitting their mistakes, apologizing, and trying to make it right even if no one else saw them doing something wrong.

I usually then ask people to raise their hands if they want to be a person of integrity.

Participants throw the ball to others in the circle following these rules:

- No one can make a sound
- No one may make a bad catch
- No one may make a bad throw

Each individual interprets the rules for him or herself. If an individual feels that he/she broke any of the rules, then he/she is to step back from the circle and kneel down. No one can decide for anyone else, even if they think that person should go out.

If participants want more clarification of the rules, tell them they are to decide how to interpret the rules for themselves.

After playing for a few minutes, ask the participants to raise a hand if they observed anyone violating a rule.

Processing suggestions:

Ask the participants raise a hand if they felt they personally acted with integrity.

Ask: Without using names, what was the violation you observed anyone not following the rules.

Was there a time when you weren’t sure if you should pull yourself out or not? What happened? What did you end up doing?

Discuss people’s interpretation of the rules.

Discuss how following the rules demonstrates integrity.

Play another round.

Use a similar set of processing questions/discussions.

Ask how acting with (or without) integrity affects the classroom.