



**ALIGNMENT CHART
LEARNING FOR JUSTICE LESSONS**

Second Step® Programs

 SECOND STEP® ELEMENTARY DIGITAL PROGRAM

Learning for Justice has designed a robust set of lessons with direct instruction on identity, diversity, justice, and action that complement and enhance social-emotional skills. Committee for Children has curated a set of Learning for Justice lessons that are aligned to the Second Step® Elementary digital program and Second Step® Middle School, as well as the CASEL core social-emotional learning (SEL) competencies. We recommend teaching these lessons in tandem with your Second Step implementation to incorporate diversity, equity, and social justice work into your classroom’s SEL plan.

What Is Second Step®?

Second Step programs are universal, classroom-based, and designed to increase students’ school success and decrease problem behaviors by promoting social-emotional competence. Second Step programs also include foundational skills essential for combating racism and promoting social justice, such as perspective-taking, empathy, and social connectedness. Second Step programs are recognized as CASEL “SElect,” and Second Step lessons are closely aligned with CASEL’s core competencies.

identified five interrelated SEL core competencies: self-management, self-awareness, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.

What Is CASEL?

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) is the nation’s leading organization advancing the development of academic, social, and emotional competence for all students. CASEL has

What Is Learning for Justice?

A respected leader in the field of anti-racism and anti-bias, Learning for Justice provides resources to educators who work with children from kindergarten through high school. These resources include classroom lessons, webinars, grants, podcasts, policy guides, and more. The lessons outlined in this chart enhance and support Learning for Justice’s SEL work and align with Second Step programs. We encourage you to visit learningforjustice.org to explore the organization’s full offerings.

Alignment of Second Step® Programs with Learning for Justice Lessons

	Learning for Justice Lesson	Grade Level	CASEL Domain	Equity Domain	Description	Second Step Grade					
						K	1	2	3	4	5
Grades K-5	Everyone's a Helper	K-5	Self-Awareness, Social Awareness	Identity, Diversity	This lesson helps students understand the concepts of strengths, struggles, and what it means to help.	L9, L13, L19	L3, L12, L13	L2, L8, L13	L3, L5	L5	L1, L3
	It's Okay to Feel Different	K-5	Social Awareness	Identity, Diversity	This lesson helps students develop an understanding of the importance of diversity in a community.			L14	L13	L17, L18	L13
	An Exercise in Kindness	K-5	Self-Awareness, Social Awareness	Action	This lesson helps students learn about the importance of kindness and tolerance.	L12, L14	L11, L14	L11, L12, L14	L11, L14	L11, L13	
	Me and We: We Are All Similar and Different	K-5	Social Awareness	Diversity	In this activity, students explore and appreciate the various similarities we all share, as well as our differences.			L9, L10	L13	L11, L13, L17	L1, L6, L13
	What's Fair?	K-5	Social Awareness	Justice	This lesson helps students explore the difference between being fair and unfair and how being fair helps everyone get along.	L19		L18	L18	L14	
	Happy Faces	K-2	Social Awareness, Self-Management	Action	Everyone has a bad day once in a while. This activity helps students be sensitive to schoolmates who might be having a bad day and gives them a way to cross boundaries and bring cheer to others.	L7, L14	L10, L15	L7, L13			
	A Healthy Way to Show Feelings	K-2	Self-Management, Self-Awareness	Identity	Individuals of all ages can find it difficult to identify and express their feelings in a positive way.	L6, L7, L8, L9, L10	L6, L7, L8, L9, L10	L7, L8			
	If You're Angry and You Know It	K-2	Self-Awareness, Self-Management	N/A	The familiar children's tune "If You're Happy and You Know It" can take on a prosocial dimension if you change the lyrics. Singing "If You're Angry and You Know It" provides an opportunity to explore appropriate responses to anger.	L8	L9				
	What Is Compassion?	K-2	Social Awareness	Diversity	In this lesson, students will explore the ways people with a critical health condition or disease might feel, as well as various ways they can support and show compassion toward those who are living with an illness.	L14	L11, L14	L11, L13, L14, L15			

Not all Learning for Justice lessons on this chart have an alignment with a specific Second Step lesson. Please teach these lessons in an order that makes sense for your classroom, in tandem with your SEL implementation.

Alignment of Second Step® Programs with Learning for Justice Lessons (continued)

	Learning for Justice Lesson	Grade Level	CASEL Domain	Equity Domain	Description	Second Step® Grade					
						K	1	2	3	4	5
Grades K-5	What Is Empathy?	K-2	Social Awareness	Action	This lesson explicitly teaches students to be more conscious of other people's feelings to create a more accepting and respectful school community.	L12	L10, L11	L11, L12, L13, L14			
	Friendship Without Barriers	K-2	Social Awareness, Relationship Skills	Diversity, Action	This lesson lets students examine what it means to be a friend and explore ways in which people can make friends. The lesson explores stories that tell of building barriers between groups, such as the story presented in Spanish and English, "Papalotzin and the Monarchs/ Papalotzin y las Monarcas" or the folk tale "Old Joe and the Carpenter." You may adapt this lesson to discuss anti-bullying messages.	L14			L11		
	My Multicultural Self	3-5	Self-Awareness, Social Awareness	Identity	In today's multicultural schools and classrooms, resolving conflict means being culturally aware.				L17, L18	L16, L17	L17, L18
	Showing Compassion	3-5	Social Awareness	Diversity	In this lesson, students will explore the ways people with a critical health condition or disease might feel, as well as various ways they can support and show compassion toward those who are living with an illness.				L13, L14	L12, L13, L14, L15	L13
	What's a Clique?	3-5	Social Awareness, Relationship Skills	Action	In this lesson, students will examine the cliques within their school community. They will also explore ways to integrate the student body and form relationships across, and in spite of, controlling cliques.		L13		L11		
	Understanding Empathy	3-5	Social Awareness	Action	This lesson helps students understand empathy and identify ways to be more understanding toward others.			L15	L13, L14	L13, L14	L11, L12, L13
	Communication: The Total Impact of Your Message	3-5	Social Awareness	Diversity	If we don't understand another culture's nonverbal communication, we may "read" another person's messages incorrectly. Some forms of nonverbal communication are the same and universal, but others have different meanings, or no meaning, in another culture. This exercise is an important vehicle in any peer conflict mediation program to help students embrace the concept of being culturally responsive and culturally sensitive.		L6, L10		L14	L17	L18

Alignment of Second Step® Programs with Learning for Justice Lessons (continued)

	Learning for Justice Lesson	Grade Level	CASEL Domain	Equity Domain	Description	Second Step® Grade					
						K	1	2	3	4	5
Grades K-5	Place as a Mirror of Self and Community	3-5	Self-Awareness, Social Awareness	Diversity	Students will understand difference and community by exploring a special place in their lives.						L12
	Speaking Kindness in Democratic Classrooms	3-5	Self-Awareness, Social Awareness	Action	For educators who hope to create a democratic classroom, one of the first steps is to co-create classroom rules with students. This lesson invites students to reflect on student-to-student verbal interactions and develop a set of guidelines for speaking to each other with kindness and respect.				L13		
	Where We Stand	3-5	Self-Awareness, Social Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making	Justice	Students examine how they face everyday moral dilemmas and consider who and what influences their reactions when conflicts arise.			L9	L13, L14, L17	L11, L12, L13, L14, L15, L17, L20	L13
	In Our Own Words: A Story Book with a Purpose	3-5	Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making	Action	Through collaborative work, students create and develop a culminating project whose goal is to empower others in their community to stand up and make a difference.					L14	L11, L12, L13, L14, L15

Alignment of Second Step® Programs with Learning for Justice Lessons (continued)

	Learning for Justice Lesson	Grade Level	CASEL Domain	Equity Domain	Description	Grade		
						6	7	8
Grades 6–12	Looking Closely at Ourselves	6–8, 9–12	Self-Awareness	Identity	Explore race and self-identity by creating self-portraits to help develop detailed observational skills and use these skills in relation to themselves and others.		L8	L2
	Using Photographs to Teach Social Justice Exploring Identity	6–8, 9–12	Self-Awareness, Social Awareness	Diversity	Analyze two photographs, each dealing with a different element of identity.		L8	L2
	The Shape of Home	6–8, 9–12	Self-Awareness, Social Awareness	Diversity, Justice	Explore diverse concepts of “home” and find ways to deal with loss and make fellow students feel welcome at school.		L1	L15
	Dealing with Dilemmas: Upstanders, Bystanders, and Whistle-Blowers	6–8	Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making	Action	Think about how to resolve difficult ethical decisions related to injustice by role-playing, researching people who have made ethical decisions, and writing about their own role models.	L12	L12	L11
	Accepting Size Differences	6–8	Social Awareness	Diversity	Evaluate their own biases related to size differences.	L8		L9
	Analyzing How Words Communicate Bias	6–8	Social Awareness, Self-Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making	Justice, Action	Identify how writers can reveal their biases through their word choice and tone.	L23	L23	
	Beauty Is Skin Deep	6–8, 9–12	Self-Awareness, Social Awareness	Diversity, Justice	Reflect on the ways they have experienced or participated in bias based on physical size and appearance, and discuss how society's expectations about body image and appearance affect people.			L9
	Challenging Gender Stereotyping and Homophobia in Sports	6–8, 9–12	Social Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making	Action	Discuss common characteristics and stereotypes that are associated with athletes.			L8
	Debunking Stereotypes About Muslims and Islam	6–8, 9–12	Social Awareness	Justice	Identify similarities and differences between the US Muslim population and the entire US population, as well as dispel common stereotypes about Islam.		L8	
	Defusing School Violence	6–8, 9–12	Social Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making	Identity, Diversity, Action, Justice	Explore the complexities of a situation in which immigrant students attend a school that is plagued with racially motivated violence.			L12

Alignment of Second Step® Programs with Learning for Justice Lessons (continued)

	Learning for Justice Lesson	Grade Level	CASEL Domain	Equity Domain	Description	Second Step® Grade		
						6	7	8
Grades 6–12	Exploring Bias and Discrimination in Hiring Practices	6–8	Social Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making	Justice	Reflect on themes of fairness, perception, discrimination, and legality with regard to employment and examine their own biases and related experiences.		L8	L8
	Female Identity and Gender Expectations	6–8, 9–12	Self-Awareness, Social Awareness	Justice	Explore different aspects of gender for today's girls and women.		L8–13	L8–13
	Fighting Prejudice and Discrimination of Differently Abled People	6–8, 9–12	Social Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making	Justice, Action	Work toward understanding what it means to have a learning disability.	L8	L8	
	One Survivor Remembers: Bullies and Bystanders	6–8, 9–12	Social Awareness, Self-Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making	Action	Be reminded that they have the power to stand up when someone else is being maligned, bullied, or harassed.	L11, L12	L12	L11
	Recognizing Discrimination	6–8	Social Awareness	Action	Reflect on real-world examples to help them identify peaceful ways to respond to discrimination.		L12	
	Sounds of Change	6–8, 9–12	Social Awareness, Self-Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making	Identity, Diversity, Action, Justice	Analyze and reflect on messages presented in songs, and express their own views about important issues addressed in some songs.	L9		
	The New Mad Men	6–8, 9–12	Social Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making	Identity, Diversity, Action, Justice	Explore how changing demographics in the United States have changed the face of advertising.			L9
	Understanding Disabilities	6–8, 9–12	Social Awareness	Diversity	Increase knowledge about people with disabilities and explore ways to sensitively communicate with those individuals.			L8
	What's So Bad About "That's So Gay"?	6–8	Social Awareness	Justice	Examine how inappropriate language can hurt, and think of ways to end this kind of name-calling.		L11	
	Cliques in Schools	6–8, 9–12	Social Awareness, Relationship Skills	Action	Examine the cliques within their school community and ways to integrate the student body and form relationships across, and in spite of, controlling cliques.	L20		

Alignment of Second Step® Programs with Learning for Justice Lessons (continued)

	Learning for Justice Lesson	Grade Level	CASEL Domain	Equity Domain	Description	Second Step® Grade		
						6	7	8
Grades 6-12	<u>Communication: The Total Impact of Your Message</u>	6-8, 9-12	Social Awareness	Diversity	Learn to embrace the concept of being culturally responsive and culturally sensitive.	L22	L22	L22
	<u>Cultural Relevancy in the Cafeteria</u>	6-8, 9-12	Social Awareness, Relationship Skills	Justice	Learn about the dietary guidelines of various ethnic and religious groups and then analyze their cafeteria's food offerings.			L12
	<u>Me and We: We Are All Similar and Different</u>	6-8, 9-12	Social Awareness	Diversity	Explore and appreciate the various similarities we all share, as well as our differences.			L20