

TIGER TOKEN STORE

I was involved with the Roosevelt Tiger Store from the beginning. A group of us had student teachers, which freed up a lot of our time. We went around to other schools to observe their stores and then created our own. One particular experience stands out in my mind as to the true intention of our token store.

Once while working in the store, a 6th grade boy approached me for help. This particular boy was always in trouble. He was constantly bullying others and I had dealt with him on many occasions for picking on my 2nd graders. He only had \$50 dollars to spend, but asked me if I thought his mom would like the smell of one of the large candles in the store. I reminded him that the candle was \$50 dollars and he would have no money left over for himself. He told me that he knew it and he wanted to get his mom something special. This was a huge awakening for me as a teacher. The boy transformed from being the school bully in my mind to being a kind son. The store allows us to see our students in different lights. I see many of my students who are going without their basic needs being met, yet they are thinking about others.

Our Tiger Store has had a huge impact on our school climate. Student motivation has increased and there is more positive interaction between teachers and students. I speak for all teachers when I say thank you to Cindy Urry for her countless volunteer hours and to Mothers Without Borders for their continued donations and support.

Sharla Bevelry
2nd Grade Teacher
Roosevelt Elementary

Tiger Loot Store A Tool for Teaching Life Skills"

One of the most important things a mother can teach is life skills to live by. Many of the students at Roosevelt Elementary are not being taught some basic life skills that should be taught in the home. The school has adopted 18 life skills that are taught in the classrooms and throughout our school community. They are cooperation, patience, responsibility, pride, problem solving, integrity, friendship, organization, perseverance, flexibility, effort, common sense, courage, sense of humor, resourcefulness and caring. Our Tiger Loot store has been a wonderful tool to teach these skills and allow for real life application. I would like to share a few examples.

At the Tiger Loot Store each class is given a time to come shop. The teachers and students need to be FLEXIBLE, because many times, adjustments need to be made to accommodate assemblies and other activities. Once students are at the Loot Store, they sit PATIENTLY outside the small store and read a book until it is their turn to shop. The Tiger Loot Store also teaches the students good math skills. They have to use PROBLEM SOLVING to count their money quickly and accurately. INTEGRITY is taught and practiced at the store because the students need to be honest when paying for items in the store.

In our Tiger Loot Store we have items that are considered NEED items, such as food items, hygiene items, and school supplies. Other items are WANT items like games, toys, and gifts type things. We use the store to teach the life skill of COMMON SENSE as they learn about needs vs. wants. The PROUD look on students' faces when they buy something that they need or a gift for a family member is very exciting and rewarding. These kids do not have a lot of things, yet they are always showing CARING when they buy things for other friends and family as gifts. PERSERVERENCE is taught and reflected as they save up for some big ticket items in the store.

Overall, the Tiger Loot Store is a wonderful way to reinforce and teach these life long skills. We are so grateful for all the physical donations as well as those of time and energy in behalf of our tiny store. It may be small in square footage, but it is HUGE in its impact on our students.