



ONE WARM COAT®

KIDS WHO CARE Information and Lesson Plan

Welcome to **Kids Who Care**, a coat drive project for very young children and their families!

Through a series of basic activities over a three-week span, preschool teachers, parents and caregivers help young children collect and distribute gently used warm coats. Together, they make a real and lasting difference in the lives of their neighbors and friends.

PROJECT GOALS:

One Warm Coat's mission is to provide a warm coat – free of charge – to anyone who needs one.

The **Kids Who Care** coat drive program is designed to:

- Teach children, parents and caregivers about the need for warm coats in their home communities and how easy it is to make a difference.
- Show children that they can be an important part of a community service project, even though they are very young.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A pre-school-based coat drive offers learning opportunities for both children and parents/caregivers.

Children will learn that:

- Their neighbors may be in need
- They can help, even if they're very young

Parents/caregivers will learn that:

- Their children and the people who care for them care about helping others
- It's easy to help when you work together

WHAT A TEACHER NEEDS TO KNOW

Once your school's coat drive is registered in the One Warm Coat system, our free Tools & Resources will help you get organized from start to finish.

Who gets the coats?

Coats stay in the community where they are collected. They are given to people who need them the most.

How do the coats get to the people in need?

One Warm Coat works with nonprofit agencies across the U.S. Your team will use our Nonprofit Locator (<http://onewarmcoat.org/deliver/>) and choose an agency in your area to receive your coats. That agency's staff will ensure that people in need receive your coats.

About One Warm Coat-approved Agencies

We require that nonprofit agencies who receive coats from us and our Ambassadors:

- Agree to give way coats free of charge (never sell them in a thrift shop, for example)
- Register with us online at <http://www.onewarmcoat.org/agencyregistration/>

What if there's no One Warm Coat agency registered in my community?

Please recommend an agency near you. Remember to talk with them about our requirements (stated above). Registering in our system is their way of telling us that they agree with our requirements. It also enables additional coat drive Organizers to find them through our website.

What Your School Team Determines

- When and where to hold your drive
- What agency you will work with
- How to promote your drive in your community

What One Warm Coat Provides

Once a coat drive is registered in our system One Warm Coat provides a variety of helpful tools, including:

- Instructions for organizing, free tools and resources, including downloadable flyers, press releases and photo releases for adults and children. Access these tools at <http://onewarmcoat.org/organize-a-drive/>
- A **Coat Drive Kit** (sent via U.S. mail) that includes a banner, collection box labels and more. (Note: You are responsible for your own collection boxes and storage bags.)
- A free listing on our national online Coat Drive Locator

Getting Organized (Project Timeline)

2 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR Kids Who Care COAT DRIVE

- Obtain school leaders' permission to hold your coat drive
- Determine the date(s) for your drive. For schools, coat drives are often held over a period of weeks and finish up on a Saturday morning.
- Hold a staff meeting to discuss:
 - The plan – the time line and activities
 - The expectations for the coat drive event
- Register your coat drive online with One Warm Coat, with at: <http://onewarmcoat.org/register/>
- Promote your drive – tell everyone!
 - Use our free online Tools (sample flyers, press releases, ideas for local media, etc.) from <http://onewarmcoat.org/toolsandresources/>
 - Like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/OneWarmCoat> and post about your drive
 - Tweet with us at <http://twitter.com/onewarmcoat/>
- Research and list local media outlets, including radio, TV, newspapers
- Use our Lesson Plan to make it a fun learning experience for the children!

1 WEEK BEFORE YOUR COAT DRIVE

- Create and send home to families:
 - A Kids Who Care coat drive project letter for families (with a request for their help)
 - Photo Release for Minors
- Check out library books to read to the children. Gentle stories of giving and sharing include: The Giving Bear by Isabel Gaines, The Mitten Tree by Candace Christiansen, Helping Santa by Bunker Hill Publishing.
- Continue to promote your coat drive through local media and social networking sites

WEEKS 1-3 OF YOUR COAT DRIVE

- Collect and count the coats with the children
- Lead fun classroom activities
- Take pictures of the kids in action!
- Celebrate! Tell us how you did by going to <http://onewarmcoat.org/report/> and entering your totals. Once we receive your information, we'll send a Certificate of Appreciation for your team!
- Deliver the coats

Lesson Plan by Week

WEEK ONE: Learning Objective: Children will learn that their neighbors may be in need.

TO DO:

- Issue press release to local media outlets
- Remind parents/caregivers about the coat drive and the Photo Releases
- Create and hang in your classroom and center:
 - Kids Who Care coat drive poster
 - Basic chart for tallying how many coats you collect each week
- Have a circle time to talk about:

- Why do we need coats
- What happens we grow out of our coats/where do they go?
- What does One Warm Coat do, and why?
- What does volunteering mean and why do we do it?
- Why should we help others/ how might that makes us feel?

Select Activities:

- Story Time: Read one of the books you selected for the class.
- Make an "idea" poster of everyone who wears a coat, using a poster board and colored paper squares.
 - Down the left hand side, list all the children.
 - Give each child at least one paper square. Invite the children to draw a picture or write the name of someone who wears a coat. (Parent, child, doctor, mail carrier, firefighter, etc. – even animals.)
 - In a line to the right of each child’s name, attach the child’s square(s). (For younger children: write the words for them.
 - On another paper, start reading the ideas and as you come to one that has been said, put a mark or number.
 - When you have read all of them, count how many children came up with the same ideas.
- Talk about why we need to wear coats.
- Encourage children to bring in a gently used coat for donation.

WEEK TWO: Learning Objective: Children will learn that they can help, even if they’re very young.

TO DO:

- Place collection boxes/bins in an accessible area for easy drop-off.
- Post on Facebook, Tweet or contact your local media outlet.
- In class:
 - Bring collected coats to your classroom.
 - Count and sort the coats by size and color.
 - Post your coat tally.

Select Activities:

- Have each class decorate a class donation box and remind them why we are collecting coats, and for whom.
- Each day, have children put their coat donations into the box.
- Each day, add the coats to your chart.
- Take pictures of the children in action. Print out the pictures, turn them into flyers and then decorate them for posting in the room or another part of the school.
- Write related words (coat, cold, warm, scarf, mittens, gloves, etc.)
- Read The Mitten Tree (or other book) again and ask open-ended questions such as:
 - How does it feel to give to others?
 - How might a person when he or she gets a coat for free?
 - Has someone helped you get something or do something before?

WEEK THREE: Learning Objective: Children will learn that they can help, even if they're very young.

TO DO:

Event Week! During this week, the school's full coat drive will be held!

- Post on Facebook, Tweet or contact your local media outlet.
- In class:
 - Bring collected coats to your classroom.
 - Count and sort the coats by type (child, adult women, adult men)
 - Place coats in large bags for donation
 - Post your coat tally.

Select Activities: Make it a fun-filled week for the children and your volunteers! (Some schools even serve coat-shaped cookies!) Here are some ideas:

- Make a "clothesline" and display children's coat artwork.
 - Purchase a "clothesline" and clothespins. Hang it in the classroom or another area of the school.
 - Prepare paper coats of varying sizes and shapes. Have each child decorate a paper coat and clip it to the clothesline.
- Take pictures of the children in action – especially with the coats.
- Print out the pictures and create a poster or banner to give to the agency (with the coats). Have children sign the poster.
- On the last day, have a final circle time in a large open area. Bring together all tally charts from the classrooms and create one complete grand total chart. Talk about how working to help others has made you feel. Write the children's words on the tally chart.
- Afterward, use the pictures and the children's words to create a memory book for each classroom, so children can look at it during the rest of the year.
- When your coat drive is finished, tell us how you did by going to <http://onewarmcoat.org/report/> and entering your total.
- Contact Local Nonprofit Agency and Deliver Coats (from (<http://onewarmcoat.org/deliver/>):
 - Introduce yourself and your school
 - Let them know how many coats and the sizes of the coats you have collected
 - If you're contacting an agency that's not yet registered, ask them to register with One Warm Coat
 - Confirm that they will be able to use the coats you have collected
 - Make plans for getting your coats to the nonprofit agency

Following Up

Survey those involved:

- Create and send out a survey to Center Directors and staff at all participating centers. Ask for feedback about what worked well and what could be done differently. Keep the feedback in your project files.
- With school leadership, check the calendar and set the date(s) for next year's One Warm Coat drive!

Send your activity ideas to drives@onewarmcoat.org so we can all learn together! (Thanks!)

This lesson plan was generously contributed by Grace Ewing, Center Director – KinderCare Learning Center Walnut Creek, CA.