



## BIZ KID\$

# Episode 117: Understanding Business Ethics

### Episode 117 Synopsis:

Do the right thing! You'll learn with the Biz Kid\$ as they examine several aspects of ethics in business. You'll also see the downside of not following ethical business practices. In this episode you will discover what it means for management to lead by example, and how employees must take responsibility for their behavior. Meet several entrepreneurs who are successful on all levels.

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### Biz Kid\$ Curriculum Package #117



## **BIZ KID\$**

## **BIZ TERMS**

### **Episode 117: Understanding Business Ethics**

1. code of ethics
2. ethics
3. ethical dilemmas
4. guilt
5. hacker
6. honesty
7. physics
8. reputation
9. role model
10. scruples
11. trust
12. unethical
13. values

#### **Suggestions for using Biz Terms include:**

- Have students research and write dictionary definitions.
- Discuss the use of these terms in the episode of "Biz Kid\$".
- Have students construct sentences using these terms.
- Have students write paragraphs, stories, dialogs, "raps", or lyrics.



## Episode 117 Understanding Business Ethics

### Equipment/Materials/Prep needed:

#### Day One and Day Two:

- TV or projection system
- DVD player
- DVD of Episode 117

#### Day Two only:

- Student copies of the "Family Activity Sheet".
- Student copies of the "Biz Terms" Sheet.
- Paper, pens, pencils, color markers, and highlighters for students making ads and posters.
- Computers for students to explore web sites listed.
- Guest speaker to be greeted and directed to the correct location for the session.

#### Preparation:

- Check to be sure needed equipment is available and operational prior to the sessions.
- Gather listed materials.
- Make an appropriate number of copies of the "Biz Terms" Sheet and the "Family Activity Sheet".
- Invite guest speaker from the local community regarding fraud and how to prevent being scammed.



## Episode 117: Understanding Business Basics

### Day One

#### Previewing Questions:

##### Day One Introduction

Welcome students/youth to "**Biz Kid\$**" and introduce yourself, giving your name and job title.

Explain that "**Biz Kid\$**" is a program to help people become financially educated, learn work-readiness skills, and to even become entrepreneurs...Biz Kids!!! They can view the program "**Biz Kid\$**" with their families on Public Television stations all over the country, and also participate by using the "**Biz Kids**" web site. Today, they get to see an episode with you.

Today's pre-viewing question:

If your teacher were to have the answers to an upcoming test on his or her desk and leave the room, would you look at those answers?

**Accept multiple student responses.**

Explain that during this session they will discuss the concept of ethics.

Define ethics as a **code of conduct that helps determine what is good, right, and proper.**



*Revisit the earlier discussion about the test answers. Ask the students why they would or would not look at them.*

Discuss the fact that most schools and classrooms have a **code of ethics** that parents, teachers, and students have established.

**These are a set of rules or principles of personal conduct.**

**Explain that students are not the only people who are expected to live by a code of ethics. Every individual has a code of ethics that helps him or her decide how to behave. Also, nearly every job has a code of ethics that the employees are expected to follow.**

Let's watch this "**Biz Kid\$**" episode together and continue our discussion following the program.

Show Episode 117: "Business Ethics"

Activity to follow viewing the program together:

Ask the students why they think it is necessary to follow a code of ethics in a work environment.

*Record students' responses on a blank overhead transparency.*

**Some responses might include:**

- So people are not hurt.
- So the company maintains a good reputation.
- So the company does not lose business or clients.
- So the company does not lose money.



**Explain that in their class's code of ethics, there is an expectation that students will not cheat.**

**Ask the students to think of other examples of behavior that would be included in their school's code of ethics.**

***Record students' responses on a blank overhead transparency.***

**Some ideas may include that students are expected to:**

- Be honest.
- Respect the beliefs and accomplishments of other students.
- Treat other students as you would want to be treated.
- Perform to the best of your abilities.
- Take pride in yourself and your school surroundings.

Thank them for their attention and participation.



## Episode 117 Understanding Business Ethics

### Day Two

#### Day Two Introduction

Play part of the theme music for "Biz Kid\$" from the episode intro to motivate and engage the students. Then stop the music, welcome the students/youth to today's session, and introduce yourself.

#### Review and Connect with the Previous Session

How many of you know someone who behaves like "Jimmy the Justifier"?

When you are presented with an **ethical dilemma, a situation in which a choice has to be made based on conflicting values**, how do you decide on your response?

1. Think about that question a moment.
2. Does anyone want to volunteer an answer?

*Allow a few minutes for students to respond if they so desire.*

#### Some ideas might include:

- Parents and families teach how to behave.
- Religious organizations teach how to behave.
- Peers influence behavior.
- TV and movie actors and actresses influence behavior.
- Sports figures can have an influence.
- Print media influences people.
- Music and musicians influence people.



Please listen as I read the following scenarios and **think about** what you would choose to do.

- Your friend forgot to do his homework. Would you let him copy the work you spent an hour on last night? *(Pause a moment, then continue reading.)*
- Your parents gave you money to buy new shoes, but if the shoes you bought were on sale, would you give your parents the change, or keep it for yourself? *(Pause)*
- If you were working in an office and your boss was not there, would you leave work early or stay until the end of the work day? *(Pause)*
- While working in a fast food restaurant, someone who is obviously in need asks you for a free meal. Would you give them free food or not? *(Pause)*

Explain that **ethical dilemmas often involve difficult decisions.**

**It is one thing to think about a “pretend” problem, but it’s much more difficult when you are actually involved in a situation.**

In **Episode 117 of “Biz Kid\$”, Dr. Locke** said that being ethical is not an attitude you have, it’s something you do. In other words, being ethical is a behavior. It can be taught. He also mentioned living by **“The Golden Rule” ...treat others the way you would like to be treated.**

**You saw an experiment done in New York by students of Barnard College that involved dropping wallets and recording data on how many were returned. If you’ll recall, the students doing the experiment had a preconceived notion that New Yorkers were unfriendly. Can someone tell me the result of the experiment?**





*(Allow for student input. 82% of the wallets were returned and the students' attitude toward New Yorkers changed to be more positive.)*

**Physics teaches us that for every action there is a reaction. The same is true for behavior; however, we don't always see the results of our choices. Actions do have consequences.**

**Ejovi**, the young man who was once a hacker, developed ethics and created a computer security company to help stop trespassing on the Internet. He also wrote a book. His behavior changed when he realized that "the world isn't only about me".

**Anna** started her own business to teach the waltz for coming-of-age parties for young women in her culture. She is preserving tradition, and maintaining her code of ethics.

**Craig** created the organization "**Free the Children**". Working through youth groups in schools, funds are raised to help children in other countries around the world.

You are going to have an opportunity to respond to an ethical dilemma today.

## Activity

**You have the choice of working alone or working with a partner on this activity. It involves creating a comic strip to demonstrate choices considered when making an ethical decision. I'll give you specific instructions of what to write, frame by frame.**

**While I distribute materials, I'll give you a moment to decide if you want to work alone or choose a partner.**



**Distribute** one “**Comic Strip Template**” and one “**Comic Strip Ethical Dilemma Sheet**” to each student.

*Ask students to please have their pens, pencils, and coloring tools ready to use.*

**Tell students that if they choose to work with a partner, everyone has to contribute. Some seating changes may need to be made so partners can sit together. The teacher may help expedite this part of the process. Once all students are settled, begin the instructions.**

### **Instructions:**

1. In the first frame of the comic strip, write your name or both names if you’re working with a partner.
2. Decide on the name of your comic strip and the name of the main character; they can be the same.
3. In the second frame, show your character being faced with the ethical dilemma.
4. In the third frame, show your character considering an unethical decision.
5. In the fourth frame, show your character considering the result of the unethical decision.
6. In the fifth frame, show your character considering an ethical decision.
7. In the sixth frame, show your character making the ethical decision and its results.

*Allow at least 15 minutes for students to work on their comic strips.*

### Summary and Review

Invite students to share their comic strips with the class.



With the teacher's help and co-operation, allow students to display their work for others to see.

Distribute the "**Family Activity Sheet**" and the "**Biz Terms Sheet**" for Episode 117 to all students.

Remind the students that it is always important to consider the consequences of their actions before making a decision.

Thank students for their participation and cooperation.



## Episode 117 Understanding Business Ethics

### Family Activity Sheet

#### Episode 117 Synopsis:

**Doing the right thing:** The Biz Kid\$ look at several aspects of ethics in business, and the downside of not following them. In this episode we see what it means for management to lead by example, and how employees must take responsibility for their behavior.

#### Family Activities:

Ethics can be a tricky subject because everyone usually has his or her own code of ethics. Talk to your child about what you value and how you like to be treated. Discuss why you behave in a particular way. Explore the ways in which behavior can affect the way people see you.

Demonstrate how you would respond to various ethical dilemmas as an example for your child.

As a family project, work with your child to develop a family code of ethics. Display the family code in your home as a reminder of how everyone is expected to act.

The game "**Scruples**" provides a fun way to get to know the ethics of others. You can also use the game cards to discuss dilemmas with your child.