



EarlyAct = Vocation+Ethics

- Approximately 4th Graders
- 5 Classes - 4 Rotarians
- Start with Vocation then share one of 4-Way Test each week
- At graduation, give kids 4-Way Test coins. It's a memory box keeper.



Front

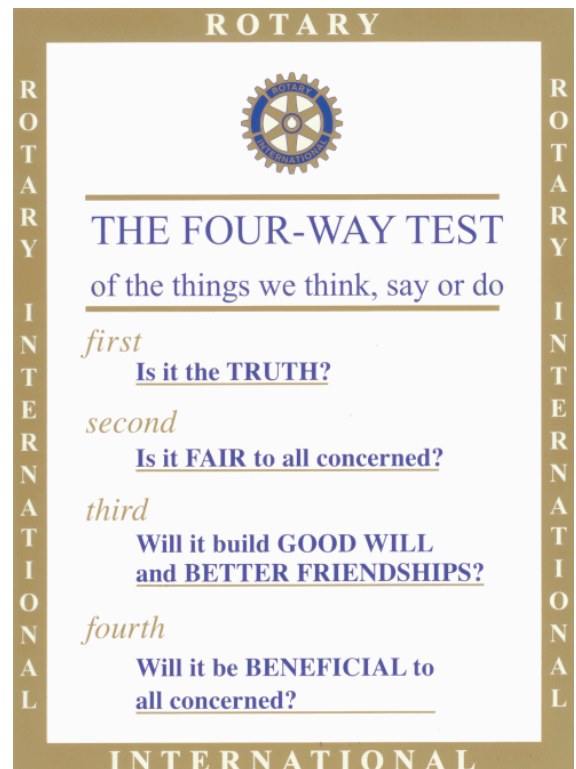
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Rotary District 5710's EarlyAct program is designed to inspire kids while teaching them important vocation and ethics information. Along the lines of Junior Achievement, the idea is to tell kids about our professional vocation and then teach the 4-way test in this ethics-based model for kids that are just entering a maturity to start rationalizing. Each club can chose their own preference, but a recommendation is to consider 4th grade kids.

The program requires clubs to receive permission from elementary schools to allow Rotarians to come into the school for a 5-week program. Each week Rotarians will spend 30-60 minutes in the class. Four Rotarians would be assigned each of the points of the 4-way test and in the time provided they will spend the first 10-15 minutes explaining their vocation and then the remaining time explaining the test they've been assigned to teach.

In the 5th week session - the graduation session - all 4 Rotarians (if possible) show up to recap what they each taught and then provide one or two examples to the class of applying all 4 of the tests to a sample problem or two. Things related to their age group like school, siblings, behavior in public, etc make the best examples. At the end of that 5th session, each child is called by name to the front of the class to receive a "gold" 4-way test coin produced by Russell Hampton (above). Clubs might also choose to personalize a certificate.

Each club will create their own structure and customization to the program. In the coming months the EarlyAct committee will release more formalized guidelines for your consideration. In the mean time, the Shawee Club is already on their 2nd session with a local school and things are going great! Please see the following page with a case study for your consideration to roll out your own program.



 District Governor Kevin Tubbesing, 2012-13



Rotary Club of Shawnee – Case Study

The club established a contact with the school in Spring 2012. In this case a school principal is a fellow Rotarian of the local elementary school. The principal was interested in students and teachers being exposed to the wide range of vocations represented in Rotary's membership. The decision was mutual and made by the District Governor and the principal to target 4th grade students for the 2012-13 school year. The Rotary had a need to impact the school and reach out to kids to teach the Four-Way Test. The principal desired an introduction of careers to the students and staff members.

Although these presentations could be tied to curriculum during the school day, the principal of this Title I school with more than seventy percent free/reduced lunch, wanted this implemented outside the already tight schedule. Students typically arrived some 35 minutes prior to the start of the school. It takes ten minutes to eat breakfast, so there are usually 25 minutes where students like to hang out and talk, coincidentally a time where precious last-minute planning takes place for the day's lesson. The principal is in need of programs to fill this morning opportunity to engage students in the real purpose behind school---preparation for the future. The importance of just getting started was clear to all.

Rotarians shared ideas on notecards as to how each of their careers strived to meet all facets of the Four-Way Test so that they could present these connections to students. The format called for four 20-minute presentations. Each presentation by the week's guest Rotarian speaker spent 5 minutes explaining the vocation in digestible terms, 10 minutes to speak to how the profession exemplified one piece of Rotary's Four-Way Test, and 5 minutes allotted to ask/answer questions. The principal came up with this format for each session. Speakers are scheduled every two weeks and 15 speakers have volunteered to present to Fourth Graders at the school. The Rotarians signed up to come and volunteer to speak to the kids and for each student that attended all four presentations of the Four-Way Test, they received a Rotary Medallion.

The school has graduated first 10 students in the first four-session program, and then 11 students in the second four-session program. The third session begins January 16th. Students have been exposed to a wide range of vocations and make-up sessions are provided in the Spring for students who cannot consecutively attend the sessions. Students are allowed to eat breakfast during the program but usually have time to do so prior. Students must arrive on time or attend a make-up session at a later date. The venue is a specific teacher's classroom, and those children enrolled in the same. Due to the short time frame, the principal chose to target each of three teacher's classes separately. These students were already accustomed to working together, so this saved time and children were at ease in their own environment.

The principal reports that teachers believe this to be a great success. Students are eager to come and the Rotarians have successfully related their vocation in comprehensible terms for the students, who ask lots of questions. The principal sees the power in connecting the students' early morning thoughts to the most important of goals. The principal also is appreciative for the teacher to have an opportunity to meet and listen to community leaders who, in turn, appreciate the job of educating the future leaders of our community. And the principal is aware of the importance of this endeavor for Rotarians to impact.