



# Think Before You Act!

Read aloud a favorite version of *Chicken Little* (or *Henny Penny*) to help students learn that they should gather the facts before they react. Then engage youngsters in this selection of activities that will guide them in learning self-control.

## Plop!

After reading aloud the story, ask youngsters to name things Chicken Little could have done to show self-control when the acorn hit his head, such as finding out what hit him and taking a deep breath to calm down. Help students generate several strategies to use when upset and record them on an oversize acorn cutout. Then invite youngsters, in turn, to pretend to be Chicken Little. As each child walks along, drop a large brown pom-pom (acorn) on her head and have her demonstrate one of the strategies listed.



## Stop and Think!

Chicken Little felt something fall from the sky.  
It hit his head! He wanted to cry!  
*Stop and think, Chicken Little!*

Rather than guessing what hit his head,  
He stopped to look around instead.  
*Stop and think, Chicken Little!*

He looked on the ground, and what he saw  
Was an acorn nearby! The sky didn't fall!  
*Stop and think, Chicken Little!*

Chicken Little moved from under the tree  
So he wouldn't get hit again, you see.  
*Stop and think, Chicken Little!*

Chicken Little uses self-control in this engaging rhyme! Have each child make a stick puppet that shows the main character in the version of the story read to your students (see page 46 for patterns). Read aloud the poem shown, encouraging youngsters to chant the last line of each stanza with you while holding their puppets in the air.

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