

RESPECT

Short Lessons

- **Students differentiate between respectful and disrespectful behavior through role-playing exercise.**

A classmate pushes you out of line and takes your place.

You raise your hand to answer a question, and everyone listens quietly while you talk.

A friend borrows one of your toys and will not return it.

You're working in a group. You tell the others your idea and someone says, "That's dumb".

A friend says "pardon me" before going around you to hang up her coat in the closet.

A classmate teases you about your new haircut.

Your partner ignores you when you ask him to pass the crayons.

A friend saves your place in line while you help a classmate pick up the books she dropped.

You're waiting in line and someone cuts in front of you.

A classmate takes time to help you understand a math problem.

You tell a classmate a secret and he tells it to a few other people.

- **Read these statements. Let students say if each one is considerate or inconsiderate.**

You act as if others are just as important as you are.

You walk quietly when someone is reading.

You call your brother a jerk.

You wait to ask a question if someone is busy.

You run around and don't pay attention when someone is talking to you.

You make sure you come in for dinner on time so nobody has to wait for you.

You hide the cookies from your sister so you can eat them all.

- **Talk about how good manners (such as courtesy, politeness, and kindness) demonstrate respect. What actions demonstrate a lack of respect?**
- **Brainstorm ways in which we communicate verbally. Have students develop a list of positive and negative words they hear every day. Which words demonstrate respect? Which words are "put-downs"? How do these words make them feel?**
- **Use money as example of respect. Would we throw it in the trash? Why does money deserve respect?**
- **Ask students how they show respect for themselves. What does a person's way of walking, acting, and dressing say about him or her?**
- **Discuss rules. What are rules for? Why do we have rules? Which rules do we like? Are there rules we don't like? Relate this to playing a game, such as football. How does following the rules demonstrate respect?**

- **Put “RESPECT” in the middle of a large bulletin board. Around the word, put pictures or drawings of the different people students need to respect, such as parents, grandparents, teachers, each other, bus drivers, brothers and sisters, and others.**
- **Draw a U. S. flag on the bulletin board and add the words of the Pledge of Allegiance. Place student figures on each side of the flag with their hands over their hearts.**
- **If I only Had Respect**
 Discuss *The Wizard of Oz* and how the scarecrow wanted a brain and felt he could get respect from others if he had one. Have students brainstorm ways people can earn others’ respect, such as taking care of their appearance, speaking in a kind manner, being polite, and doing their best. Write student suggestions on the chalkboard. Distribute a scarecrow reproducible to each student. Invite students to choose three favorite suggestions from the chalkboard (or create new ideas) and write them inside the scarecrow’s patches. Invite students to decorate the scarecrows with art supplies, cut them out, and connect the arms and legs with brass fasteners. Display the scarecrows on a bulletin board entitled *If I Only Had Respect*.
- **Children discuss how each of them is unique and learn that physical characteristics are never a good reason to deny others respect. The youngsters color self portraits to highlight and discuss their differences.**
- **Students discuss the birthplaces of those who were born outside of the country. They are encouraged to develop greater respect for people of diverse ethnic backgrounds, and those born in other countries will be shown that their backgrounds deserve respect and appreciation.**
- **Children discuss the difference between respect for authority figures and respect for peers. After citing examples of how they can show courtesy and respect to their peers, they express these ideas in drawings of respectful behavior which are posted on a “wall of respect” as a reminder of appropriate behavior.**