



Grades 3–5

Category: Peer Relationships

Topic: Respect

Show a Little Respect

Background

Showing respect for others, even if they seem different from us, is a key to living together harmoniously. Respect plays an important role in bullying prevention by contributing to the development of healthy relationships and communication. By grades 3–5, students grasp the need for fair play, following rules, boundaries, and caring about the feelings of others, all of which can contribute to the development of respect. Schools and classrooms where respect is evident among students and between adults and students are likely to have a lower incidence of bullying.

Learner Outcomes

By the end of this session, students will be able to

- define respect as being thoughtful and considerate
- discuss the link between showing respect and having friends
- demonstrate respectful behavior by role-playing common situations

Materials Needed

- Show a Little Respect Game Cards on page 297
- Object to use as a spinner (wooden rod or game spinner)
- Tape
- Chalkboard, dry erase board, or chart paper and chalk or markers

Preparation Needed

- Review the vocabulary words in Curriculum Connections prior to conducting the class meeting.
- Copy, cut, and select Show a Little Respect Game Cards.
- Place the spinner in the center of your meeting circle and arrange the Show a Little Respect cards face down and evenly spaced around it (like the face of a clock).
- Write the word “respect” on the board or chart paper.

Class Meeting Outline

Opening Activity (15 minutes)

1. We’re going to play a game today called Show a Little Respect.
2. Before we start, let’s review what respect means. How many of you have heard the phrase “Respect your elders”? What does “respect” mean in that case? (Answers include obey, honor, don’t talk back, don’t question what grown-ups say.) The kind of respect we are going to use in our game has to do with our vocabulary words: *considerate*, *courteous*, *tactful*, *thoughtful*, and *polite*. Define the vocabulary words, if necessary.
3. I’d like a few of you to quickly demonstrate what these words mean. Pretend I am a person (adult or child) who is visiting the school. Introduce yourself to me and welcome me to the school. Ask two or three students to show several ways of being considerate, courteous, tactful, thoughtful, and polite.
4. Here’s how the game works:
 - a. There are (number) cards laid out in the middle of our circle—sort of like the numbers on a clock. Each card has a tricky situation written on it.
 - b. You will each take turns spinning this spinner. Demonstrate. When the spinner stops and points, turn over the card it’s pointing to.
 - c. Silently read the situation, and quickly decide what you might do and say.

Dig Deeper



- Adults must clearly convey the message that respect for others does not mean that a bullied person is expected to passively accept the bullying.
- Self-respect is an important concept as well. In relation to bullying prevention, it might include notions like defending others, doing the right thing even if it’s unpopular, or using assertive behavior to stand up for yourself or others.

- d. Then, act out what is on the card for the rest of us, using your most respectful words and body language.
5. Play the game. Each time someone has a turn, instruct him or her to place the card upside down in the same spot. If one card is selected more than twice, you may remove that card from the mix, so students have an opportunity to practice other scenarios.

Discussion Questions (10–15 minutes)

1. Process the activity.
 - a. Which of these tricky situations were hardest? easiest? Why?
 - b. What kinds of words or phrases were the most respectful? the least respectful? Why?
 - c. What were ways that people showed respect nonverbally, or through their body language or tone of voice?
2. What are benefits to us for showing respect to others?
3. Have you ever had to tell someone the truth in a gentle way (or maybe just part of the truth) to be respectful and to avoid hurting that person's feelings? (Refer to the examples on the cards, like responding to a friend who asks about a haircut you don't like, or telling someone you don't want to be close friends anymore.) What did that feel like? What's a good way to handle these situations? What made it hard for you?
4. Why is it important for all of us to show respect to each other here at school?
5. What role does respect play in preventing bullying? (Bullying is a form of disrespecting others, showing respect can help avoid bullying, respectful language can help bystanders confront bullying without making the problem worse.)

Wrap-Up

1. None of us is friends with everyone we meet. But everyone deserves to be treated with respect, whether or not they are a friend. We can show that respect through the words we use and through our actions. Whether you agree or disagree with someone, please keep practicing being thoughtful, considerate, tactful, and polite.
2. Compliment students on their respectful behavior.

Activity

Show a Little Respect Game Cards

Instructions: Copy the cards and cut them apart. If possible, tape or glue them to pieces of construction paper or index cards.

Say no to an invitation to come to someone's house	Ask for help from someone you don't know well
Disagree with someone's opinion	Tell someone that his or her shirt is on inside out
Reply when a friend asks if you like his or her haircut (and you really don't like it)	Tell a friend you don't like something he or she did
Deny a rumor about someone you know	Tell a friend why other students have been laughing at him or her
Tell someone he or she is not following the rules or playing fair	Tell someone who has been bullying a classmate to leave the person alone
Interrupt a conversation	Someone sends you a text message in which he or she calls another student a mean name
Someone cuts in front of you in line after you've been waiting a long time	Tell a group who wants you to stop a game and move that you were there first and aren't finished playing yet
Tell someone who just told you some gossip or a rumor that you don't want to be involved	Tell an old friend you want to make some new friends, too