

Character Education

October 2013

Respect

Define & Discuss Respect

- a. Showing high regard for other people, for yourself, for property, the environment, your country
- b. Understanding that all people have value as human beings
- c. Showing that you value other people's possessions, your home, your own body, the world we live in and our country by the way we act!

Literature Suggestions

Choose a book to read aloud and discuss.

1. "The Patchwork Quilt" by Valerie Flournoy
2. "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss
3. "The Great Kapok Tree" by Lynne Cherry
4. "The Hundred Dresses" by Eleanor Estes
5. "I like Me!" by Nancy Carlson

Activities

"Respect-acles"

"Thinking of You"

Role Play Scenarios/Discuss

"Nice to Meet You"

Respect Pocket

Closing

"Respect-acles"

Children are introduced to the concept of respect; they discuss the feelings that accompany receiving and giving it.

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- 12-inch pipe cleaners (one for each child)
- 6-inch pipe cleaners (two for each child)



Ask: *What does it mean to be respectful? How do we show respect?* Ask for and offer examples (listening to the teacher or to your parents, saying "please" and "thank you"). Suggest: *We have to show respect to others if we expect them to respect us.* Ask: *How can we show respect in the classroom?* Again, field answers and offer examples (not talking when the teacher is speaking). Next, say: *Sometimes we can forget to be respectful. We all need a little help to remind us.*

to order or to read more about the *Good Ideas* book, which includes 250 lesson plans and activity ideas — plus a section on bringing CHARACTER COUNTS! to your community.



Ask the children if any of them know what "spectacles" are. Tell them that this is another word for glasses. Put on your "respect-acles." Say: *These are my "respect-acles." Why do some people wear glasses? Field answers. People wear glasses to help them see better. My "respect-acles" help me see respectful behavior. Today we are going to make "respect-acles" to remind us to watch for and show respect.*

Pass out pipe cleaners and demonstrate construction:

1. Twist ends of 12-inch pipe cleaner together to form circle.
2. Twist the circle to make a figure 8.
3. Give the figure 8 an added twist to make the nose bridge.
4. Attach two 6-inch pipe cleaners to each side.

After the task is complete say: *Now we are going to test them. Put on your glasses and let's see how well you can spot respect.* Ask several questions about respect, such as: *If the*

teacher is reading aloud to the class, how should we act to show respect? If the class is lining up for recess and people are shoving each other, how should they act to show more respect? If there is only one toy that everyone wants to play with, how can we show respect? Field answers.

Before the lesson ends, discuss the following: We respect others even if we don't think or look the same way. We respect others even if they like to do different things than we do. We respect others even if they are not our friends.

Conclude with these questions: How does it feel when you see others being respectful? How does it feel to show respect?

Adapted from an idea submitted by Mary Jo Williams, 4-H youth development specialist (4-H Youth Program, University Extension, University of Missouri System, Lincoln University). Her idea is based on a lesson from the "Thought, Word and Deed Program" by State Farm Insurance Company. See

Activity: Role Playing

How would you practice respect if...

1. Your grandpa wants to give you advice on how to succeed in school?
2. You borrowed a friend's bike?
3. A teacher has given you an unexpected low grade on your science project?
4. Your mom is on the phone and you want to ask her a question?
5. You see a disabled person trying to open a door?
6. Your coach chooses another soccer player to put in the game and you feel that you're a better player?
7. Your father asks you to eat your vegetables and you don't feel like eating them?
8. An elderly man spills his bag of groceries in front of you?
9. Your friend is talking loudly to you in the library?
10. A policeman asks you to get off your bike and walk it across a busy intersection?

Activity: Nice to meet you

Have students pair up and teach them how to speak to someone they are meeting for the first time. For example, how to shake hands, introduce them, and tell the new acquaintance that it is nice to meet them.

Pocket

