

CHARACTER TRAIT OF THE MONTH: RESPECT

SEPTEMBER

What is Respect: The Dictionary defines it as “due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions of others”.

What does it mean to be respectful?

Treat others the way we want to be treated.

Ways of Showing Respect:

Respect Rules: We have rules to keep you and others safe. We respect rules, by following them.

Respect People: We respect people by treating them the way we want to be treated. We treat them kindly, even when we do not agree with them or we do not like something they are doing.

Respect People's Property: We take care of people's property. We do not break things that do not belong to us. We do not throw out our trash and leave it on the ground for other's to pick up.

Respect Animals: We need to be gentle with animals. If we have pets, we need to take care of them and make sure they have food and water.

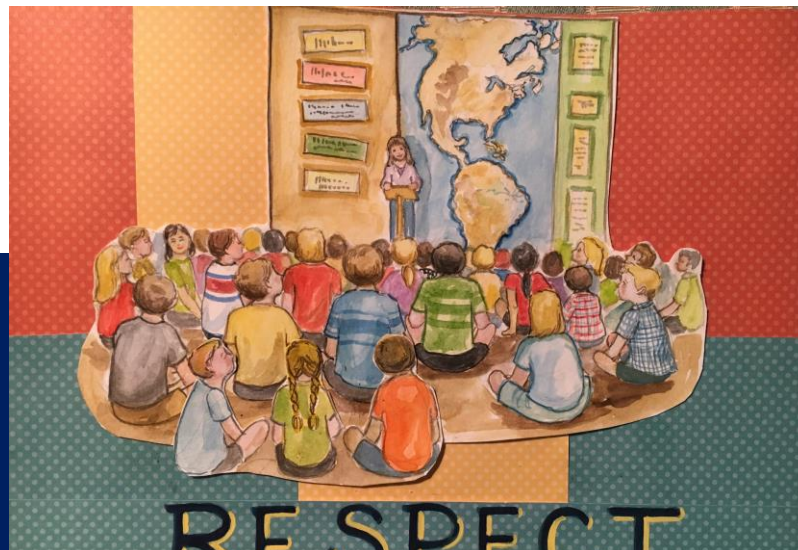


Story:

Gavin and Stacy were in class one day when the teacher asked the two of them to pick an animal book that she would read to the class. While at the bookshelf, Gavin started picking out books about dinosaurs while Stacy started picking books on birds. Gavin really wanted to hear a book about dinosaurs so he asked Stacy to choose his book and put hers back. Stacy wanted to learn about birds because they were more colorful and she liked the pictures. Gavin became frustrated and began to stomp his feet and tell Stacy the book she picked is stupid. Stacy began to cry. She didn't think the book she picked out was stupid. The teacher pulled them both over to her desk and told Gavin "I understand that you want to read about dinosaurs" then she looked at Stacy and said "and I know you want to read about birds". As she glanced between the two she finished her comments by stating "both books are good. That is why they are on my bookshelf. I do not like when people say mean words about my books or each other. This is called being disrespectful. We show respect by treating people the way we want to be treated and being kind when people do not agree with our opinion. Can the two of you try again and this time show respect?" Gavin looked at Stacy and said "I'm sorry Stacy. Your book isn't stupid. We can read your book." Gavin then asked his teach, can we read my book next?" and the teacher replied with "absolutely." The teacher took both books and first read the book on birds and then the book on dinosaurs.

Questions:

- 1) What are some ways that we can share our frustrations in a respectful way?
- 2) When we are in class, how can we be respectful of one another?
- 3) How can we respect the items, such as books, pencils, desks and chairs, in the classroom?



Showing Respect Every Day:

- 1) Listen when others are speaking.
- 2) In the classroom, raise your hand when you would like to speak and wait for the teacher to call on you. When you are with others, listen to what they have to say, wait for them to finish and then speak.
- 3) Be kind to each other. Talk nicely with the way you talk and the words you say.
- 4) Clean up your mess. Do not leave your mess for others to clean up.
- 5) Follow the rules that are part of the classroom, your home/family, and the laws of the community.
- 6) Follow directions given by your teachers, parents, coaches, and the protectors in your community such as police officers and fire fighters.
- 7) Be kind to the people around us by asking them to join our activities and not leaving a person out.
- 8) When we are angry, do not act out in anger by calling names and using words to hurt people's feelings. Take a break until you can talk calmly or get a teacher or adult involved.
- 9) Focus on our similarities and not our differences.
- 10) Work together.



Activity:

Each question will have 4 answers for the children to choose from. Assign a different area of the room for each answer, and have the children go to the different areas on each question.

- 1) Out of these 4 foods, what is your favorite food?
 - a. Cheeseburgers
 - b. Pizza
 - c. Macaroni and Cheese
 - d. Chicken Nuggets
- 2) Out of these 4 colors, which one is your favorite?
 - a. Red
 - b. Blue
 - c. Green
 - d. Yellow
- 3) Out of these 4 activities, which is your favorite?
 - a. Reading books
 - b. Watching a movie
 - c. Playing video games
 - d. Playing a board game, like Candyland
- 4) Out of these 4 sports, which is your favorite?
 - a. Baseball
 - b. Soccer
 - c. Cheerleading
 - d. Basketball
- 5) Out of these 4 activities in the arts, which is your favorite?
 - a. Drawing
 - b. Painting
 - c. Singing
 - d. Acting
- 6) Which color of hair do you have?
 - a. Blonde
 - b. Brown
 - c. Black
 - d. Red
- 7) Which pet do you have?
 - a. Dog
 - b. Cat
 - c. Other
 - d. None

Each of us is different in who we are and the things we like. We show respect in these differences by knowing that these differences make us each unique, we do not make people feel bad about their differences and we are kind to them. Instead we can focus on the similarities that we have: We all have hair, we all like food, we all like some type of art, and we all have a favorite color.