**Character Education: RESPECT**

**Pre-teach:** Introduce yourself and tell the students which trait you will be discussing today. Ask the following questions and call on different students for answers. Below each question are examples of the types of responses you are looking for. You may need to rephrase the student’s answers or guide them along.

*(Ask)* **What does the word respect mean?**

1. Showing consideration for other people and their property.
2. Caring for ourselves, family, community, and school.
3. Appreciating and accepting individual differences.
4. Treating others the way that you would want to be treated.

*(Ask)* **How can you show respect?**

1. Use kind words and good manners.
2. Listen to what others have to say.
3. Follow the rules.
4. Appreciate differences among people.
5. Take care of other people’s property at school, home, and in the community.
6. Help others.

*(Ask)* **How would you practice respect if.........**

1. Someone on the school bus is saying unkind words and "bullying" another student. What should you do?

2. One of your classmates or siblings shares a story you have already heard many times before. How should you react?

3. The park is closed for construction and the sign says "Keep Out!" Your friends want to play anyway. What should you do? What if someone takes a marker and starts writing on the sign?

4. Your teacher brings in a very special souvenir from her vacation. She allows it to be passed around the classroom. How should you handle the special treasure? What if it gets broken?

5. What should you do if you see a classmate or teacher with their arms full struggling to open a door? Or you see them drop a stack of papers on the ground?
6. Your coach chooses another player to put in the game and you feel it should be you?

(Encourage students to come up with a few more situations to discuss together as a class.)

**Book Suggestions for Respect**: Read and discuss a book that teaches a lesson about respect. These books and others are located in our Character Education library and available for check out. Please feel free to bring an appropriate book from home or the public library.

**Kindergarten**:
- Arthur's Nose, *Marc Brown*
- The Grouchy Ladybug, *Eric Carle*
- The Ugly Caterpillar, *Eric Carle*

**First Grade**:
- Arthur's Eyes, *Marc Brown*
- Dog Eared, *Amanda Harvey*
- William's Doll, *Charlotte Zolotow*

**Second Grade**:
- Big Al, *Andrew Clements*
- Charlie the Caterpillar, *Dom Deluise*
- Enemy Pie, *Derek Munson*

**Third Grade**:
- A Coat of Many Colors, *Dolly Parton*
- Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs, *Tomie dePaola*
- Old Henry, *Joan W. Blos*

**Fourth Grade**:
- Moss Gown, *William Hooks*
- Annie and the Old One, *Miska Miles*
- It’s a Spoon Not a Shovel, *Caralyn Buchner*

**Fifth Grade**:
- If a Bus Could Talk: The Rosa Park Story, *Faith Ringgold*
- The Black Snowman, *Phil Mendez*
- Smokey Night, *Eve Bunting*
**Respect Activities:** Complete an activity to go along with your lesson. You may choose to incorporate an activity into your lesson at any time. Oftentimes visuals and experiments are very effective at the beginning and will get your students excited about the lesson.

**Reaching Out With Respect** (Suggested for all grades) Practice firm handshakes in class with each other. Talk about how offering your hand and looking that person in the eye is a way to show respect. Discuss other ways our hands can show respect, applause, reaching out to help someone, putting our hand over our heart during the Pledge of Allegiance, handling delicate things with care, keeping our hands to ourselves, and cleaning up. Have students trace around their right hand on a piece of paper. On each finger have them write a way to show respect for others. Encourage students to share some of the statements they have written. If possible, display the hands in the room or hallway.

**Treat People with Respect** (suggested for 3-5) What does it mean to treat other people with respect? Have your class brainstorm a list of do's and don'ts for treating people with respect. Ask for specific examples of each behavior they identify. Hang the list up on the wall as a reminder.

- Is there anything you dislike about the way people treat each other here at school? Do you know of any disrespectful behavior? Describe it. How do you feel about it?
- What do you like most about the way people treat each other here at school? Does it have anything to do with respect?
- What is a bully? Is bullying an act of disrespect? In what way? Are there bullies here at school? Can someone be a bully without meaning to be? How?
- How can treating people with respect prevent fights?
- When you are with a group of kids, what things might other kids do or say that make you feel good? What things make you feel bad?
- How does treating people with respect affect your friendships?

**Simon Says: "Who are You?"** (Suggested for grades K – 2) Students play a variation of Simon Says that highlight their similarities and differences. The objective is to teach respect and tolerance for each other. Tell them to watch carefully as they play the game because at the end each student must tell one new thing they learned about a classmate. Begin the game like this:

Simon Says: "Everyone with brown eyes, stand up." Simon Says: "Everyone who has a cat, put your right hand up." Simon Says: "Everyone whose favorite sport is basketball, stand on one foot." Simon Says: "Everyone who speaks more that
one language, jump up and down." Simon Says: "If you like to eat spinach, nod your head, and so on.

At the end of the game have students sit down in a circle. Ask each to student to share something new they learned about another student. Discuss respect for each others uniqueness and how to appreciate our differences. (www.education-world.com)

**Out Of My Mouth** (Suggested for grades K-1)

**Materials:** You will need a tube of toothpaste and a paper plate

The theme of this activity is to watch what you say because you can't take it back. Select a volunteer to come up to the front and ask them to squeeze all of the toothpaste out of the tube onto the plate. Ask another volunteer to come up front. Once your volunteer is in place, ask them to carefully put all of the toothpaste back into the tube. Soon they will give up and respond that it is impossible. Explain to the class that getting the toothpaste out was much easier than putting it back in. Our words can be just like that. Once they come out of our mouths, we can't put them back in. This is why we should always take care to use kind words and speak respectfully to others. Thoughtless, mean, and angry words really hurt. Remember: The toothpaste was caught on a plate so it would not make a mess. Unkind words can't be caught this way, and what we say can make a big mess. Always take care to use kind and respectful words.

**It’s Not Easy Being Green** (Suggested for grades K-1)

**Materials:** Song or video of Kermit the Frog singing “It’s Not Easy Being Green”

Play song or video for the students. You can get the video on Youtube. Discuss what it means to be different and how it feels. For example, Are you short or tall? Do you or someone you know have a physical disability? How do people from other countries and those who speak a different language feel? Ask the students to identify ways they can demonstrate respect to those people who are different from them.

**Manners Matter** (Suggested for grades 2-5)

Suppose you’re invited to your friend’s home for a family dinner. What are some ways you could show respect and courtesy when your first arrive? At their table? When you leave? Work in small groups and write down your answers and share with the class.
**Respect Rap** (Suggested for grades 3-5) Put students into small groups to create a song, a rap, or a chant about respect. Their words should tell why respect is important and how it could make the world a better place. Write the rap on a piece of paper and be ready to share it with the group if called upon.

**Bumper Sticker** (Suggested for grades 3-5) Design a bumper sticker about respect. Include on the bumper sticker: the word Respect, a tagline or slogan for why you should use it and at least three words that describe it.

**Race For Respect** (Suggested for grades 2-5) Divide the class into groups. Assign each group a different respect scenario such as respect at home, respect at school, respect for strangers, respect for the environment, respect in sports, etc. Allow 5 minutes for each group to come up with as many ways as possible to show respect at their assigned place. When time is up have each group read their list to the class. The group with the most respectful actions WINS!

**Role Play** (Suggested for grades 2-5) Divide the students into groups of 3-5 and ask each group to develop a short skit about respect. Each skit should show a student responding to a situation in a respectful manner. Have each group present their skit to the class.

Have the kids role play or use puppets to act out the following situation: Four good friends are planning to spend a day at an amusement park. Two of them want to invite another kid who's new in school. The other two don't want to include this person because he/she is different in some way (different race, a "dweeb," from a foreign country, etc.). After the role play have a class discussion. Then, have four others do another role play changing what it is that's different about the new kid. Repeat this process changing the difference each time.

**Respect in the News** (suggested for grades 3-5) Bring in articles from newspapers and magazines describing situations in which respect or disrespect are issues. Talk about who is acting respectfully, and who is acting disrespectfully in these situations. Look for a sports related article or someone the kids can identify with so the kid find it more relevant.

**Heart-ful Respect** (Suggested for grades 2-5) Materials: Hammer, nail, block of wood Begin by striking the nail into the wood with the hammer. Explain to the students that this is what it feels like in a person's heart when they are teased, (hit the nail again) put-down, (hit the nail) excluded, (hit the nail) the victim of gossip or a cruel email etc. Next, remove the nail and say, “Even after ‘I’m sorry’ is said, (show students the hole left by the nail) a hole is left in that person’s heart. Don’t be the kind of person that hurts the hearts of others. Treat everyone with kindness and respect.
Stomp out Respect (grades 3-5) Following teaching all about respect, reading the book, etc. the project was to "Stomp out Disrespect". The students traced one of their shoes on white paper, wrote "Stomp out Disrespect" inside the foot and then decorated the footprint and sheet however they wanted. Then as a fun extra treat, I had downloaded Aretha Franklin's "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" from iTunes and we had a 3 minute dance party dancing to her song

Types of respect (grades K-2) Have items in a bag and pull them out and have the kids answer what type of respect they stand for...example an apple shows respect for your body or health, school bus shows respect for school, police car represents respect for authority, a toy stands for respect for other’s property, etc.

In addition I used the board to write out a list of "who" you respect and "what you respect" and then we talk about the different ways to show respect to those people or things.

Sign Language (all grade levels) This lesson teaches respect by talking about people’s differences. I read a book on being deaf and taught a few basic signs- please, thank you, sorry and share.

**Don’t be afraid to use Youtube videos. You can show these in the classroom on the smart board. Of course make sure the content and language is appropriate. There are many great videos on Youtube regarding each character trait. **

Closing comment: If you expect respect, then be the first to show it!

Read and discuss the below quote and then give a bookmark to each student. (Bookmarks attached. Make copies as needed.)

“Respect is learned, earned, and returned.” ~ Author Unknown