

Dilworth Elementary Character Education

Respect (September)

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.

Book: Read and discuss a book that teaches a lesson about respect. (*See book suggestion list.*)

(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.*)

Activity: Complete an activity to go along with your lesson. (*Activity suggestions follow.*) 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.

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

***"Respect is learned, earned, and returned."* ~ Author Unknown**

Respect Activities

Reaching Out With Respect (Suggested for all grades)

Materials: None

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.

Simon Says: "Who are You?" (Suggested for grades K – 2) – All Dilworth 1st Grade Classes

Materials: None

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 than 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 student to share something new they learned about another student. Discuss respect for each other's uniqueness and how to appreciate our differences. (www.education-world.com)

Out Of My Mouth (Suggested for all grades) – All Dilworth 5th Grade Classes

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. (*Object Talks For Any Day*, Kokmeyer)

It's Not Easy Being Green (Suggested for grades K-1) – All Dilworth K Classes

Materials: Song or video of Kermit the Frog singing "It's Not Easy Being Green"

Play song or video for the students. 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. (*Character Education*, by Graham and McKoy)

Respect Activities (*continued*)

Manners Matter (Suggested for grades 2-5)

Materials: Copy of below poem

Talk about good manners and how they are an important way to demonstrate respect. Read the following poem to the students. (*If you do not have copies of the poem you can write it on the board.*) Have the students work in small groups to make a song or rap out of the poem. Select volunteers to present their version of the poem to the class.

We say, “Thank you.”

We say, “Please.”

We don’t interrupt or tease.

We don’t argue. We don’t fuss.

We listen when folks talk to us.

We share our toys and take our turn.

Good manners aren’t too hard to learn.

It’s really easy, when you find

Good manners means...

Just being kind!

Sweet Respect (Suggested for all grades) – **All Dilworth 2nd Grade Classes**

Materials: bowl of water, pepper, sugar, and a bar of soap

Begin by sprinkling pepper liberally on the water. Tell the students that the pepper represents the people around them—classmates, teachers, friends and family. Discuss the fact that how we get along with people is largely determined by how we treat and speak to them. Our words can be very powerful tools, either for good or bad, and it’s important to learn positive and respectful ways of speaking to others. Take the bar of soap and tell the students it represents unkind and hurtful language. (*Touch the bar of soap to the center of the water. The soap will repel the pepper and cause it to be dispersed to the side of the bowl.*) Tell students that when we speak unkindly to others, they will not want to be around us, and they will scatter just like the pepper. Take a teaspoon of sugar and pour it in the center of the water. Compare the sugar to the sweetness of kind and respectful words. (*The pepper will be drawn to the sugar.*) Tell the students that being respectful towards other people usually causes them to be drawn to us and want to be our friend. (*10-Minute Life Lesson, Jaime Miller*)

Race For Respect (Suggested for grades 2-5) – **All Dilworth 3rd Grade Classes**

Materials: None

Divide the class into two groups. Assign Group 1 “Respect at Home” and Group 2 “Respect at School.” 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)

Materials: None

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.

Heart-ful Respect (Suggested for grades 2-5) – All Dilworth 4th Grade Classes

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.

HOW TO BE RESPECTFUL

Treat other people the way you want to be treated.

Be courteous and polite.

Listen to what other people have to say.

Don't insult people, or make fun of them, or call them names.

Don't bully or pick on others.

Don't judge people before you get to know them.

General questions about respect:

1. 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?
2. What do you like most about the way people treat each other here at school? Does it have anything to do with respect?
3. 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?
4. How can treating people with respect prevent fights?
5. 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?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. 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. Compare their list with the one at the top of this page. Hang the list up on the wall as a reminder.
2. Make a class contract in which the kids lay out a set of rules for having a respectful classroom. What will be the penalties for violating the rules?
3. Brainstorm ways to make your school environment more respectful. Create a list of recommendations, and place them in your school newspaper or on a poster.
4. 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.
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.

Lessons copied from Providence Spring Elementary's web site, Charlotte, NC

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The Parent/Community Connection in the Classroom: Connecting your classroom to parents, community, and character education , Julie L. Gaines, 2005 (Reproduction is permissible for school use only.)