

# Respect (Grades K-2)

## For PurposeFull Families



### EXPLANATION:

This month we're talking about the character trait of Respect. The dictionary defines it as the value of admiring another person for who they are and what they do. The definition we are using in class is:

**Respect: seeing good in people and things (and treating them with care).**

We are also talking about Respect in the context of using good manners, not using inappropriate or offensive language, being courteous to one another, resolving conflicts peacefully, and treating one another as we would want to be treated (and how they want to be treated!).

### CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- Talk with your child about what it means to be respectful, to be courteous and to use their manners, to solve conflict peacefully, and what it means to treat others the way they want to be treated.
- Talk about a time you felt disrespected and what you did about it in a way that demonstrated Respect.
- The core value of Respect invites us to celebrate differences, offering us a beautiful opportunity to work with our children to break down stereotypes. Ask what they think of when they think about grandparents, for example. Expect answers like "they're old, they're slow, they're forgetful, they're nice, they're understanding, they're generous." Let them share without judgement, to get all of their thoughts out. Then have a conversation about how these are stereotypes that may or may not be accurate for all grandparents and why thinking about people as individuals instead of in groups can be an exercise in Respect.
- If Respect means making others see good in people and making people feel cared for, how do we already show Respect at home? How can we do a better job showing Respect as both kids and adults?

### QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK:

- What do "good manners" look like in our family? How does using good manners show Respect?
- How does it feel to be respected? How does it feel to be disrespected? Who are the most respectful people you know?
- Is it easier or harder to Respect someone who is very different from us? Why?
- What do I do that makes you feel respected? How else does that make you feel?

### APPLICATION:

#### Books:

- [Hey, Little Ant](#) by Phillip and Hannah Hoose
- [A Bad Case of Stripes](#) by David Shannon
- [The Colors of Us](#) by Karen Katz
- [One](#) by Kathryn Otoshi
- [Something Else](#) by Kathryn Cave
- [Shhh!](#) by Jeanne Willis
- [Chrysanthemum](#) by Kevin Henkes
- [Giraffes Can't Dance](#) by Giles Andreae
- [The Juice Box Bully](#) by Maria Dismondy
- [What if Everybody Did That?](#) by Ellen Javernick
- [Have You Filled a Bucket Today?](#) by Carol McCloud
- [Do Unto Otters](#) by Laurie Keller
- [Whoever You Are](#) by Mem Fox

### FOR YOUR READING:

- [Parenting Magazine: The Return Of Respect](#)
- [The Respectful Child: How To Teach Respect](#)

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### ACTIVITY:

Hang a ruler somewhere in the house or make one out of a piece of paper and call it the "Respect Ruler." Talk with your child about what each end of the ruler means - on one end is "disrespectful" and on the other is "respectful." Anytime your child makes a choice that is disrespectful or respectful towards themselves or others, walk them to the "Respect Ruler" and have them self-identify where they think that choice was on the scale and why. Anytime your answer is different than theirs, talk about why!

### PURPOSEFULL PURSUITS:

#### Family Field Trip

Research other cultures with a real or virtual family field trip. Maybe there's a Native Indian Museum close by? Or an exhibit on the Royals in England coming to a museum near you? It could even just be a field trip to eat dinner at a German restaurant. Notice similarities and differences in the culture(s) that you experience and talk about them after the trip is over!

**Toughness:** 2  
**Time:** 3  
**Type:** Group

#### Cell Towers

Challenge yourself to not use a cell phone after your child comes home from school until they go to bed. Invite your child to build a tower together out of blocks or other supplies around the house. As you build together, talk about what it means to Respect each other's ideas. When creating things as a team, what are ways that we can show each other Respect? Share how you are committed to spending the evening away from technology and giving them your attention and why you believe that shows Respect.

**Toughness:** 2  
**Time:** 3  
**Type:** Partner

#### Honoring Humanity

Collect some toiletries or socks for people in your community who are in need and drop them off with your student explaining what you are doing and why you are doing it. If possible, make your respectful service more personable by talking with those who work at the shelter, food bank, or organization that you have chosen to support.

**Toughness:** 3  
**Time:** 2  
**Type:** Group

#### Respect the Planet

Talk about how you can Respect our planet by keeping it clean. Visit a place in your community where your family enjoys spending time - it could be a park, the library, a playground, or even your neighborhood. Take gloves and a trash bag with you and look for litter to pick up. Talk about how picking up litter helps our environment.

**Toughness:** 1  
**Time:** 2  
**Type:** Group