

Montessori Grace & Courtesy

Month: Sept.

Week #: 3

Day: Th - F Time: 30 min.

General Courtesy

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: learn about and practice various forms of courtesy; they will also discover how using courtesy can prevent conflicts.

Materials

small pieces of colorful paper to be used as 'Courtesy Coupons'

Illustration

Cathy seems to be asking to borrow the pencil in such a way that Randy is happy to lend it to her. I wonder what she said and how she said it?

Background

Using courtesy is a way to show caring and respect to others while also preventing conflict.

Group Activity

1. Tell a story about Randy Rude, who doesn't use courtesy, and Cathy Courtesy, who does. In the story, have Randy get into a fight or offend somebody whenever he doesn't use courtesy.



Contrast Randy Rude and Cathy Courtesy's behavior with situational dialogue. For example:

Randy: "Give me that pencil!"

Johnny responds: "Hey, you can't boss me around!"

Cathy: "Can I please borrow your pencil?"

Johnny responds: "Sure."

Possible situations to include:

- taking things in a rude manner
- bumping into someone and not apologizing
- taking somebody else's place without asking to see if someone was sitting there first
- pushing their way into line or in front of others
- not saying thank you when something is either given or done for them

Group Discussion Questions

1. How would feel if Randy Rude acted this way with you?

A: It could make me sad or angry.

2. What did you like about Cathy's behavior?

A: She used courtesy which shows respect for the other person.

Group Discussion Questions (continued)

3. How was it different from Randy's behavior?

A: He was self-centered, demanding and showed no consideration for the other person.

4. Raise your hand if you think Cathy will get into lots of conflicts. Raise your hand if you think Randy will get into lots of conflicts.

5. What are some of the possible consequences of conflict?

A: Somebody could be emotionally or physically hurt, it could ruin a friendship or make it unpleasant to work with the other person.

Variations/Extensions

1. Review the specific types of courtesy by making a list of them on the board.

2. Divide the students into pairs and have them develop a play where they contrast using courtesy against not using courtesy.

3. Hand out 'Courtesy Coupons' to each student. Tell them that each time they use courtesy towards another student, to also give them a coupon. The goal is not to collect coupons, but to use courtesy. Tell them that if they run out of coupons they're doing a good job! Set a specific time for the length of the activity.

Conclusion

Say, "Using courtesy is a way to show both caring and respect to others while also preventing conflict."



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