

THEME: SCHOOL MANNERS

R E S P E C T

GRADE: EARLY CHILDHOOD

Focus: Character development, self-esteem, respect for others, cognitive skills, emotional skills, social skills

Overview: Learning the appropriate way of acting in a classroom will go a long way in creating a healthy environment that is conducive to learning, in addition to being a place of tolerance and acceptance.

Goals: Students will learn manners that are especially important in the classroom.

Materials: The activity sheet for this lesson can be found following this lesson plan. *The Berenstain Bears Forget Their Manners* by Stan Berenstain and Jan Berenstain. Various items.

Lesson Plan

Tell students: *Today we are going to learn about special manners for school. These are manners that are important no matter where you are, but they are especially important at school.*

These manners include:

- *Covering your face when you cough or sneeze*
- *Being kind to everyone*
- *Sharing toys*
- *Waiting your turn*
- *Raising your hand to speak*
- *Asking permission to do things*
- *Using words, not fists, when you are angry*
- *Saying "Excuse me" when burping or otherwise*

What do you think our classroom would be like without these manners? Do you think you'd like to be in a place with no manners? No. It would be noisy and people would be fighting all the time. No one would share their toys. That is not the kind of classroom we want. So what do we say when we do something like burp or make other noises from our body? (Excuse me.)

What about when someone has a toy you want, what do you do? (Ask to have a turn.)

What do you do if you are angry with someone? (Use your words, not your fists.)

What do we do when we cough or sneeze? (Cover your mouth.)

Very good. If we can have all these good manners, everyone in our class will be happy.

Activity 1: Role-play good manners. Pair up students and have each pair model three sets of good manners. First, give each pair a toy and have one student say, "May I play with that toy when you are done?" Next, have one student pretend to sneeze making sure to cover his mouth. The other student then says, "Bless you."

Finally, have some crayons just out of reach of one of the children but close to the other. Have the farther student say, "Please pass me the crayons." Ideally, each student will have a chance to model each set of good manners. Praise the children for wonderful manners and remind them to always use them so everyone will be happy in the classroom.

Activity 2: Using the "School Manners" activity sheet, have children color or circle the examples of good manners. (Activity sheet has six scenarios: two children with unhappy faces pulling at same toy, one child sharing a toy with another, shoving in line, standing in line nicely, raising a hand to speak, child kicking down another's blocks.) If needed, discuss what is occurring in each circle.

Activity 3: Read *The Berenstain Bears Forget Their Manners* by Stan Berenstain and Jan Berenstain. Or read another appropriate manners book and have a discussion about manners. Specifically get students to discuss how the characters were happier once everyone had good manners.

ACTIVITY 2

SCHOOL MANNERS

Color or circle the examples of good manners.



