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LESSON 1

WHAT ARE MANNERS ANYWAY?

Overview:

By age two, most children already understand that saying “please” and “thank you” is required. Some children are also beginning to understand what “that’s not nice” or “good girl/boy” mean. So, this is the right time to help those children understand what manners are, in relation to who they are specifically, and also to explain why manners are important generally.

Objectives:

- Explain to children what manners are.
- Show children some simple polite behaviors.
- Introduce “respect”.

Knowledge Material:

Instructor begins by explaining that “manners” can be defined as proper ways of doing things, or rules for behaving. Using your manners makes it easier to get along with other people. Instructor then asks children if anyone can give an example of manners and then explains how the behavior they suggested helps them get along with people. Explain what would happen if no one used their manners.

Example of manners- saying please. Saying “please” shows you are asking politely and not being bossy, if no one said please we would all be grabbing things and being bossy at the same time.

Discuss other polite behaviors:

- Waiting your turn
- Not interrupting
- Saying thank you
- Smiling
- Don’t push
- Clean up your mess
- Don’t hit or bite

Lead into Lesson 2 by saying that having good manners shows that you have respect, “Next lesson, we’re going to learn about respect”

Instructor’s Note:

Although you can’t really avoid using the word “rules” when talking about manners, try to approach the “rules” as guidelines or helpful hints, even good ideas. Use humor where you can. We want children to have fun with manners, to choose to exhibit them because they want to, not because they have to.

The end of Lesson 1 is a good time to introduce Success Charts, or friendly competition, or some other means of tracking manners. Use Worksheet #2 for Lesson 1 and provide children with stickers for each appropriately exhibited behavior. With older children explain how younger children look up to them and that you need them to set an example.

IDEA: Each day you have a manners lesson you could assign a few children to be the “Polite Posse,” give them sheriff’s badges and ask them to memorize “the rule” for the day so they can help all the rest of the class (“courteous citizens”) learn them. You could expand this theme and ask children to wear western clothes one day when you will visit the “Behavior Badlands”- a world where rude outlaws live- maybe have a manners scavenger hunt outdoors or make up rude characters (Potty Mouth Pete, Sloppy Joe, Rude Rusty, Sneaky Pete, etc.)

Practice Exercises/Activities:

- Worksheet #1 for Lesson 1- Be a Manners Detective (for younger children, this activity can be done as a group with the instructor reading the sheet aloud)
- Make up a manners theme song. Divide children into groups. Ask each group to make up a song (and dance) about manners/respect. Give children a few minutes to do this and then let each group perform their song for the others.
- You could place signs of mannerful behaviors around the room (for example, “Put coat in locker,” “Put books in desk,” “Clean craft area,” “Put garbage in trash” and then let children be detectives and try to find all the signs.

Materials/Supplies Checklist:

- Worksheets
- Pencils
- Assorted stickers
- Props could include a magnifying glass for when you do the Manners Detective Sheet.
- Sheriff badges (optional)
- Cassette player or radio (for ideas for manners songs)
- Costumes or dress up items for playing “Polite Posse” (optional)



LESSON 1-WORKSHEET 2

I HAVE GOOD MANNERS!

Every time you remember your manners, put a sticker in the good behavior box.

Try to fill the whole row for each behavior before camp is over.

NAME _____

SMILE	SHAKE HANDS	SAY PLEASE	HELP SOMEONE	SET TABLE	SAY THANK YOU	BE POSITIVE

BONUS POINTS:

Behavior _____ Sticker _____

Behavior _____ Sticker _____