

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

April 2005

SHORT NOTES



Wait for it

Do your kids dash off to start something before you've finished giving them instructions? Try this. Start by saying, "Not yet, but when I say so, I'd like you to..." This method will encourage your youngsters to slow down and listen.

Fighting stereotypes

Stereotypes are used to describe groups of people. If your children repeat stereotypes, like "girls aren't good at sports," talk about whether they're actually true. Your youngsters will be less likely to believe and use negative stereotypes if you help them think them through.

Happy parent, happy child

A happy parent equals a happy household. To increase your family's overall happiness, try to find time every day to do something that pleases you. Examples: work on a favorite hobby, spend time with a friend, read an interesting book.

Worth quoting

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."
Winston Churchill

JUST FOR FUN

Teacher (looking at messy paper): Hmm. You should work on making your handwriting neater.

Student: But then you'll see that I can't spell!



Respectfully yours

Children who do well in school and in life tend to be respectful. But respectfulness is something youngsters have to be taught.

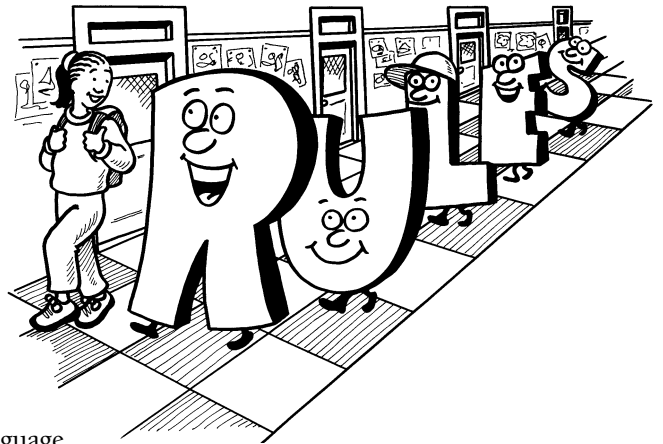
Here are some ways you can help your child develop respect for ...

Herself

Give your youngster plenty of hugs, kisses, and attention. Use respectful language when you speak to her. Your unconditional love and consideration will show her that she is worthwhile and increase her self-respect.

Authority

Talk with your youngster about rules and laws. Let him know that they help everyone be good citizens. Give him examples, like no running in the hallways at school, driving the speed limit, and not littering. Talk about why rules and laws are important. Your child is



more likely to respect authority when he knows the reasons behind the rules.

Others

Let your child see you treating other people respectfully. Lend a hand to family, friends, and neighbors, and encourage her to join in. Taking care of someone who's sick, shoveling snow for an elderly neighbor, and caring for a pet are all ways you can demonstrate respect for others. Your youngster will learn respectful behavior from watching you and helping out whenever possible. ♥

Mastering manners

Good manners are one way to show respect. You can encourage manners in your youngsters by teaching them to:

- Introduce themselves politely when they meet someone new.
- Be on time when they're invited to a friend's house.
- Avoid interrupting when someone else is talking.
- Be respectful of others' privacy.
- Answer the phone and take messages for parents and siblings.
- Offer help when they're guests in someone's home.
- Speak in a respectful tone to everyone.
- Respect others' property and belongings. ♥



Cool Web sites for kids

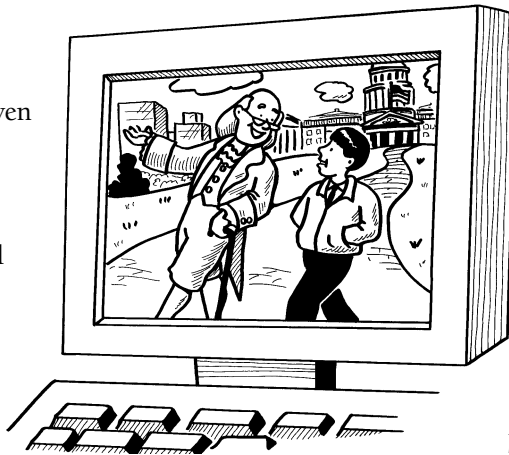
Do your youngsters need homework help? Try some of these Web sites. They're educational and cool enough that your children might even ask to visit them again—just for fun!

General learning

Look for links on specific school subjects at Homework Center (www.multcolib.org/homework), a site designed by school librarians.

Government and civics

In Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids (<http://bensguide.gpo.gov>), a cartoon



Ben Franklin guides you through the basic facts about our government—from the president to the postal system. You can also find interesting facts about your home state.

Science

EurekaAlert!'s Science for Kids Web site contains kid-friendly science news from around the world. The tidbits are fascinating and sure to get any child interested in science. Visit www.eurekaalert.org/kidsnews.

Punctuation and grammar

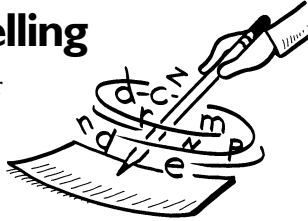
Need a quick refresher on grammar? Purdue University's Online Writing Lab, <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar>, offers simple answers about everything from commas to capitalization. ♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Silly spelling

Would your child like a break from the usual spelling drills?

Try these challenging games using his spelling words. Start by having your youngster review the list. Then:



Reverse it

Write each word in reverse. *Example:* Instead of "small," write "llams." Can he recognize the words? Have him say them aloud and write each one correctly.

Add it

Add an extra letter to each word. *Example:* "Small" could become "smaill." See if he can figure out which letter is incorrect.

Scramble it

Choose several words from the list, and scramble all the letters. *Example:* Scramble "small" into "lsaml." Challenge him to unscramble the words. ♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Q & A

Three steps to money smarts

Q: I've started giving my kids an allowance and would like to teach them to manage their money wisely. Any tips?

A: If your children learn good money habits while they're young, their lives will be richer for it—literally! Try this three-step idea:

- Ask your youngsters to think about what they want to do with their money. Would they like to save up for something special, or use their money for weekly treats?
- Help them decide how much to set aside each week so they will have enough money to carry out their plan.
- Encourage your children to write down how much they spend or save every week. Seeing the numbers on paper will help them keep track of their choices—and may prompt them to use their money more carefully. ♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Motivation pointer

My two children have a couple of chores they are required to do every day. But too often the chores don't get done. Or I find myself nagging about them.

Recently, a friend told me her secret. Her children know they're expected to do their chores, but if they have trouble getting started, she sometimes gives them an incentive. Instead of nagging, she'll say something

like, "We'll go to the store and rent your favorite movie after you finish cleaning the bathroom."

I decided to try her suggestion with my youngsters. For example, to get them to straighten their rooms, I said, "As soon as your toys are put away, we'll read more of the book we started last night. If you hurry, we'll have time to read an extra chapter." I was pleasantly surprised by how fast they picked up! ♥

