RESPECTING OTHERS

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

ED U. GATOR GOES TO THE MALL
ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT LEADERS

PROJECT: SOLUTION
Discovering Lessons for Life
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LEVEL II
Here's an old song that was a big hit for a great singer named Aretha Franklin. The song was called \textit{R-E-S-P-E-C-T}, and in it, Ms. Franklin sang this famous line: “All I want you to do for me is give me a little respect.” Ask your mom or dad, or grandfather or grandmother to sing it for you sometime! It was a very popular song, because everyone knows how important it is to be respected, and to show respect for others. The easiest way to show respect is to treat other people the same way you like to be treated. I'm sure you appreciate it when people speak nicely to you, and do nice things for you. Isn't it great when you have something exciting to tell somebody, and they really listen? I bet you like to be treated fairly, too. Well, so does everybody else!

The world is filled with billions of different kinds of people. All of us have different colored skin and hair. We are different shapes and different sizes. We all have different abilities, too. Some folks can run fast as lightning, or climb a cliff in seconds flat. Other folks need wheelchairs or specially trained dogs to help them get around. Everybody has a unique way of looking at life, too. That's what makes our world so fascinating! Can you imagine a world where everyone looks the same, and has the same point of view? Yikes! That would be pretty boring!

Luckily, we are all unique and special. And every single one of us deserves to be treated fairly, spoken to nicely, and heard. If everyone showed that kind of respect, there'd be a lot less arguing and fighting. Unfortunately, you can't change the world, but you can help by respecting others yourself. Respect your parents, your grandparents, your teachers, your brothers and sisters and all your friends. That would be a great start!

\textbf{ACTIVITY:}

Get together with a few friends at school or at home and tell each other about your family, and about where you live. Make sure you listen carefully to what everyone has to say! When everybody has told their stories, talk about what's similar and different about your experiences. Then do this activity with someone you don't know very well. You might find out some fascinating things, and you might even make some new friends!
Friends. Ed here again. Last Saturday it rained all day, so Gabe and I decided to go to Mudville Mall to catch a movie and to buy Gabe a new baseball glove. Gabe and his Mom came to get me in their van. Boy, was it the coolest! It has all this special automatic stuff for Gabe's wheelchair. The doors slide open with a push of a button, and a lift comes down and picks Gabe and his wheelchair up. I felt like I was in a spaceship! The van is set up so that when Gabe's old enough, he'll be able to drive it himself, wheelchair and all.

I liked Gabe the first time I met him at the baseball field, but I really learned to respect him after our trip to the mall. People with disabilities face a lot of challenges every day. When we arrived at the mall, all the handicapped parking spaces were taken. Since it was raining, everyone wanted to park near the entrance, and several cars were parked in the spots illegally. Boy, that made Gabe's mom really mad! Those people were not respecting Gabe's needs, and the needs of others with disabilities. We finally found a spot big enough for the van that was pretty far away. We got soaked! Then, when Gabe and I got to the entrance to the mall, the button for the automatic door wasn't working. I had to open the regular door for Gabe, which bothered him, because he has a lot of self-respect and likes to do as much as he can for himself. After that, things went fine. The movie was fun and Gabe got a great new baseball glove. Then it was lunchtime.

Gabe and I decided to eat at Taco Tim's. When it was our turn to order, the gator behind the counter asked me what Gabe wanted for lunch. I guess he thought that because Gabe was in a wheelchair, he couldn't answer for himself! That was ridiculous!

But Gabe didn't let it upset him too much. He said that kind of stuff happens all the time. But it upset me. I wish all people showed Gabe the respect he deserves. Besides his wheelchair and his spaceship van, he's the same as everybody else!

QUESTIONS

1) What was special about Gabe's van?

2) What made Gabe's mom angry in the parking lot? How were the illegal parkers being disrespectful?

3) Why was Gabe unhappy when Ed opened the door for him?

4) How was Gabe treated at Taco Tim's?

5) What made Ed respect Gabe more?
FUN PAGE

MAKING A MEMORY

Directions: Think about a special time you’ve spent with a grandmother, grandfather, or older relative and write a few sentences about it below. Then list five things about that person that you really respect.

DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, DIFFERENT CLOTHES

Directions: Pretend the four people in the pictures below are from different countries. What kinds of clothes, hats, and shoes would they wear? Think about some cultures you may have learned about in school, and use your imagination!
IN THE NEWSPAPER

Directions: The paper is filled with pictures of interesting people. They represent a wide range of colors, sizes, shapes and ages. Find as many different kinds of people as you can, cut out their faces and paste them into the shape of the world below.

HOW CAN YOU SHOW RESPECT

Directions: In the spaces below, describe some ways you can show respect for:

- your mother or father
- your sister or brother
- your grandmother or grandfather
- yourself
- your teachers
- your friends
- police officers or crossing guards
- other people's things
- other people's needs
Jaime was 12 years old when she got her first guitar. It became her constant companion, and at night she laid it down on the floor next to her bed. After a few months she had taught herself a few songs she knew from the radio. After a year she had a long list of tunes that she played very well. Jaime found some friends who played other instruments, and they formed a band. They practiced every afternoon in her parents’ garage.

Each summer, Jaime’s parents went vacationing for a month, and Jaime went to live with her Nana and Poppa far away. Jaime never liked going to her grandparents’ house, because it meant leaving her home and her friends behind at the most exciting time of the year. This summer Jaime was especially disappointed, because she had to stop practicing with her band.

“Oh, do I have to go?” Jaime pleaded with her parents. “Yes,” they said, “but you’ll be back in a month.” So Jaime packed her clothes, her guitar and a few favorite CDs. She put on a permanent frown and sat silently in the back seat of her dad’s car. She was determined not to enjoy herself at Nana and Poppa’s.

When she got there, she spent most of her time in her bedroom, playing her CDs loudly, or banging out angry songs on her guitar. One Saturday, Poppa knocked on Jaime’s door. “Jaime,” he said, “I’ve got to go downtown to pick up a few things. There’s a music store I thought you might want to check out.”

Jaime dragged herself off the bed. “Well,” she said, “I do need some new guitar picks.” Poppa told a few jokes on the way to town, but Jaime refused to laugh, or even smile. But when they got to the music store, Jaime’s eyes grew big as stars. There were rows and rows of guitars, drums and keyboards. A man who worked there said, “Hello, Jamie!” to Jaime’s grandfather. Jaime asked Poppa how the man knew him. “Oh,” Poppa replied, “I’ve lived in these parts a long time.”

Jaime walked over to a display of new electric guitars. Suddenly she heard the most beautiful sound. Someone was playing a violin. It sounded incredible! She turned around and to her great surprise, discovered it was Poppa playing. He played a few different songs, one slow, one mid-tempo and one amazingly fast! Soon a small crowd gathered around Poppa. Jaime was really impressed. She had a new respect for her grandfather.

On the ride back home, Jaime asked Poppa, “How come you never told me you played music?”

“Oh, I’ve mentioned it a few times,” Poppa said, “but I don’t think you were ever really listening.”

That summer turned out to be the best one of Jaime’s life. Every afternoon, Jaime and Poppa played music on the back porch. She taught him a few new songs, and he taught her a few old ones. They came to love and respect each other, and a special bond grew between them. When her parents came to take her back home, Jaime didn’t want to leave. “Do I have to go?” she pleaded.

“Yes,” they said, “but you can come back again next summer.”

“Boy,” Jaime thought in the back seat of her dad’s car, “next summer seems forever away!”

— By Ned Andrew Solomon
Mohandas Gandhi was one of the world's greatest leaders. He worked hard his whole life to obtain fair treatment and respect for the people of India. When Gandhi was a young man, he went to England to practice law. Later he travelled to South Africa, where he helped Indians like himself be treated more fairly by the white British government.

Two decades later, Gandhi returned to India. At that time, India was ruled by England. The English people were wealthy and for the most part, the Indians were very poor. Gandhi taught the Indians how to make their own clothes, instead of buying them from the British. He taught the Indians to fight back against unfair laws, without using guns or violence. Gandhi believed it was honorable to be arrested for a worthy cause, such as standing up for your rights and he encouraged his people to go to jail peacefully. Gandhi was arrested many times himself. He often said, “If people hit you, don’t hit back.” Eventually, the Indians won their freedom from England. Sadly, this peaceful man was shot and killed at the age of 78. Mohandas Gandhi is known today as the Father of India. His people called him Mahatma, which means “Great Soul.” His efforts to gain respect and fair treatment by peaceful protest have inspired great leaders all over the world.

VOCABULARY:

Obtain: to get.
Decade: a period of ten years.
Honorable: deserving of respect.
Arrested: held by police.
Worthy: important.
TIPS

1) When our children grow up, they will be living and working in a world filled with a diverse population of people. They will encounter all races, all cultures, all religions and all types of abilities and disabilities. It does our children a disservice to shield them from any one group while they are young. The more diversity they encounter when they're young, the more prepared they'll be for the realities of the world.

2) Be aware of statements that imply that all or most members of a particular racial or ethnic group are the same, or act the same. Also, when identifying a person, use their racial or ethnic origin only when absolutely necessary. You'll be surprised how often you do it, and how seldom you really need to.

3) Teaching your children to respect and speak politely to adults and authority figures is probably very important to you. Make sure in your everyday situations that you are being a good model for your child. Children may not get it right away, and you may need to model the exact language you expect out of them continuously. Don't give up!

4) As you expect your child to respect you, make sure you show your child the same respect. If you want your child to listen, make sure you're a good listener too!

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Here's a fun and educational family experience. Go out to dinner as a family to an ethnic restaurant. Choose foods that are different from your usual fare. Many ethnic restaurants are inexpensive, and some are very kid-friendly! Some magazines and newspapers have annual restaurant guides, which list eating places by type of food. Be adventurous and bon appetit!

RESOURCES


FAMILY PLEDGE CARD

Our family has completed the Family Page together.

______________________________
Child’s name

______________________________    ___________________
Family members:

______________________________    ___________________

School: ___________________________________
Teacher/grade: ___________________________

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