RESPECTING OTHERS

LISTEN UP! YOU MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING

ED U. GATOR LEARNS TO LISTEN
COWBOY DAN LOVES TO ENTERTAIN KIDS
The world is an amazing place! It's filled with rivers and mountains, busy city streets with huge skyscrapers, spacious parks and crowded parking lots. The world is home to a million different kinds of people, too. Tall and short, fat and thin, old and young, dark-skinned and light-skinned. Just look around your classroom. So many pretty smiles and fascinating faces. It's like a big beautiful painting!

We all need to learn to respect each other. Do you know what that means? It means we try to treat people nicely, no matter who they are. It means we try to find polite ways of saying and doing things. It means we make good choices, such as sharing and taking turns and caring about our friends and families. It means we respect each other's things, too. Even if we like and want something that belongs to somebody else, it's not right to take it from them. Sometimes if we ask that person nicely, they might even let us borrow it! But if we borrow something, such as a book, or a toy or a bicycle, we need to take care of it as if it were our own. That's how you show respect.

There's another great way to show respect for other people, and it's really easy to do. Just listen to them, that's all! You might even learn something! Listen to your parents and your teachers, your brothers and sisters, and your friends. You can learn important things about life. Listen to your grandparents, too. They've lived in this amazing world a long time, and they've got some wonderful stories! Everyone is special in their own way, and everyone has a story to tell. I bet you do, too!

**VOCABULARY:**

- **Skyscrapers:** very tall buildings.
- **Spacious:** having a lot of room.
- **Fascinating:** really interesting.

**ACTIVITY:**

Can you think of something interesting that happened to you? Maybe you've visited a neat place, or read a terrific book. Get together with a few friends in your class, or at home, and take turns telling each other stories. And remember, listen to each other, too!
ED LEARNS TO LISTEN

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friends. Ed here again. It's been an exciting week in Gatorsville Park. I'm finding new friends and fun places to go every day. I've been so busy having fun that I haven't been doing my chores around the house. And I haven't been doing a very good job of listening either, especially to my family.

Tuesday afternoon, Dad had to ask me four times to clean up my room, but I was having too much fun playing ball in the backyard. Wednesday, Mom asked me again and again to get dressed for school, but I was watching this great new video and I didn't want to stop. Thursday evening, El asked me to help her unpack some boxes, but I just pretended not to hear her. Gramps called my name out five times, but I was listening to my new CD by the Goo Goo Gators, and I guess I had it on a little too loud. Gramps wasn't too happy about that. He asked me if I had glue balls stuck in my ears.

When Friday came around I guess I learned my lesson. Our teacher, Mr. Salim Ander, had taken our class on a field trip to the Upstream Space Museum. We saw rockets and spaceships and got to meet a real live astronaut! I couldn't wait to get home to tell everybody. When I walked in the front door I called out "I'm home!" but nobody answered.

QUESTIONS

1) Why was Ed neglecting his chores?
2) Can you remember some of the things Mom, Dad, Gramps and El wanted Ed to do?
3) What happened when Ed came home from his trip to the space museum?
4) Why was Ed so disappointed?
5) What did Ed learn about listening?
6) What does listening have to do with respecting others?
THE COLORS OF THE WORLD

Directions: All people have different colored hair and skin. They're all beautiful! Take a bunch of different colored crayons and color in the six faces below.

TELL ME WHAT YOU HEAR

Directions: Here's a picture of somebody's ear. It's doing a good job of listening. Pretend you are that ear and listen carefully for a minute. What sounds do you hear?
IN THE NEWSPAPER

Directions: The newspaper is filled with pictures of people. If you look through you'll notice they come in every size, shape and color. Cut out some of the pictures of people you find and paste them together in the space below.

TO GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE WE GO

Directions: Take a few minutes and think about one of your favorite older relatives. It might be a grandmother, grandfather, aunt or uncle or just an older friend of the family. Draw a picture of that person below. Then list a few things that you really like about that person.
Here once was a beautiful princess who lived in a magnificent castle high on a hill. Her father, the king, gave her anything she wanted, from splendid clothes to fine jewelry. From the highest window in the castle, the princess could look down upon the townspeople, who worked hard from morning till night. “Oh, the poor peasants,” she often thought. “What dreary lives they lead.” The princess believed that, because of her riches, she was somehow better than they were. She would often ride her favorite horse into town, but she would never stop to talk or listen to the peasants.

One day the princess had a terrible accident while riding on a trail through the woods. The sky grew very dark. Suddenly there was thunder, lightning and a howling wind. A heavy branch from a nearby tree fell and knocked the princess to the ground. She tried to get up, but her leg was caught under the branch. It was getting colder and darker by the minute, and the princess was losing her strength. She heard a sound behind her, but that was the last thing she remembered.

When the princess awoke, she found herself in a strange house surrounded by peasants. At first she was frightened. Then she smelled something wonderful cooking on the stove. A woman covered her with a blanket. She had a beautiful, kind smile. “Who am I?” asked the princess. The woman softly explained to the princess about the storm and her fall from the horse. She told her that they would take her back to the castle as soon as the weather cleared. The princess ate two bowls of soup. It was delicious! She felt a warmth and a comfort in that simple house that she had never felt before. The princess realized she would have died in the woods if the peasants hadn’t found her. “You have saved my life,” the princess said. “I have great wealth. What can I do to repay you?” But the peasants wanted nothing.

From that day on, the princess had a new respect for the peasants. She would often ride her horse into town and spend hours talking and listening to the hardworking people of the town.

— By Hed Andrew Solomon
Cowboy Dan loves to entertain children. He writes and sings songs, tells great stories and does amazing rope tricks! He's also a genuine cowboy! Cowboy Dan, whose real name is Dan Harrell, grew up in Sanderson, Texas. As a boy, he listened to the country-western music of Roy Rogers and the Sons of the Pioneers, and the hand-me-down stories of his older relatives. After he moved to Nashville, he began performing for kids at churches and libraries. Word about his shows spread very quickly. Today he performs for kids all over Tennessee. Last year he told stories and played songs for 70,000 students at 168 schools. Maybe you've seen his cowboy show, too! Cowboy Dan believes in respecting yourself and respecting others. He sings and talks to kids about eating right, talking politely, and making the right choices. His songs are very simple, and are fun and easy to sing. They have titles like “Yeehaw Says It All!”, “When You Eat Right,” and “Cowboys Don’t Need Guns To Have Fun.” One of his songs is called “These Are The Keys.” The chorus has an important lesson in it. If you know it already, then sing along:

Yes ma’am, no ma’am  
Yes sir, no sir, thank you and please  
You can open any door  
With yes ma’am, no ma’am, yes sir, no sir  
Thank you and please  
These are the keys!

VOCABULARY:

Genuine: real  
Polite: having or showing good manners.
TIPS

1) When your child grows up, he or she will be living and working in a world with all different kinds of people. It will help your child adjust if he/she has had experience with as many different cultures as possible. Shielding your child from certain ethnic or racial groups now will cause fear and prejudice later.

2) How your child speaks to adults and other people is probably very important to you. Make sure in your everyday situations that you are being a good model for your child. Also, as you expect your child to listen to and respect you, are you showing your child the same respect?

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

4) When choosing books to read to your children, try to find variety in the characters. Reading books solely about people who are just like you does little to broaden a child’s perspective. There are many great multicultural books, and books about people with a wide range of abilities and disabilities.

5) Each person’s skin color is unique. Young children need to understand that all colors are beautiful. This will help children appreciate the wide variety of people in the world.

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


CREDITS

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FAMILY PLEDGE CARD

Our family has completed the Family Page together.

______________________________
Child’s name

______________________    ___________________
Family members:
______________________    ___________________

School: ___________________________________
Teacher/grade: ___________________________