



the family values toolkit

For Children Birth to Age 2

This Month's Featured Value Is: **Respect**

Respect refers to the belief that other people have as much worth and dignity as oneself, and deserve to be treated with care and courtesy. A person can also feel respect for property, institutions, relationships, and the environment. While respect is often equated with good manners, the core of the behavior goes deeper than politeness. It stems from the feeling that harming others, trampling on their rights, and defacing property are inherently wrong.



What Can Parents Do to Nurture This Important Value?

First, Set Goals:

Foster your child's basic respect for himself and other living things.

All babies and toddlers are egocentric--to them, the world, including parents, is an extension of themselves, existing to meet their needs. Although young children can feel a strong attachment to other people and objects, respectfulness requires a sense of their own separateness. It's hard for a toddler to grasp, for example, that the toy he wants belongs to another child or that parents have needs separate from his own. Parents can begin the long process of instilling respect even at this very young age by following a few simple guidelines.

Next, Take Action! Try These Activities:

- ✓ **Show your children that you care about their feelings.** Start by sympathizing with their needs, comforting their fears, and explaining what you're doing rather than simply swooping down to change or feed them.
 - ✓ **When your toddler is around a dog or cat, teach him or her to respect the animal by petting it gently** and asking the owner if you can touch the animal before you do.
 - ✓ **If your baby is crying or chattering loudly in a quiet place, like a restaurant, theater, or house of worship, show respect for others** by taking your child out of the room. Parents, here's where you model respect for society!
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Then, Report Back!

Share your stories of success, your challenges, and overall experiences with others in our community @ responsibilityproject.com/familyvalues