



the family values toolkit

For Children Ages 5 to 7

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:

Help your child internalize a sense of respect for people and surroundings.

The early elementary school years are characterized by a profound respect for authority. Children this age believe their parents and teachers are the arbiters of right or wrong, and they aim to please these important adults. A kindergartner, for example, may have trouble consistently following the rule to avoid calling out--but she will not question the teacher's authority to set that rule. At the park, they may pick up their ice cream wrapper because their parent tells them to, but probably not because they want to keep the park clean for others. Instinctive respect may be present, but understanding still needs to develop along with it. Parents are vital in this learning process.

Next, Take Action! Try These Activities:

- ✓ **Take a nature walk with your child and talk about which plants are OK to pick and which are endangered or private property.** This teaches respect for our environment.
- ✓ **Try a more polite version of "Simon Says."** In this version, Simon always says **please** touch your nose. (Note: In this adaptation, the leader also has to also say "thank you." If the leader fails to say "thank you," they're out and there's a new leader.) Have the kids switch off being Simon.
- ✓ **Play "A Trace of Respect."** *Materials: Butcher paper, crayons, markers, colored pencils.* First, talk to kids about what respect means. In this combination game and art project, each participant traces another's silhouette, then writes down qualities (such as "bakes me cookies," "is a good sport," "tells the truth," "pets our puppy") that they respect about their subject within the outline.

Then, Report Back!

Share your stories of success, your challenges, and overall experiences with others in our community @

responsibilityproject.com/familyvalues

Get Next Month's Value @ beliefnet.com/values