

Counselor's Corner



Florida Virtual School Flex Elementary
Strengthening The Home School Connection

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Raising Respectful Children



How do you define Respect? Here's what Wikipedia has to say: Respect is a positive feeling or action shown towards someone or something considered important, or held in high esteem or regard; it conveys a sense of admiration for good or valuable qualities; and it is also the process of honoring someone by exhibiting care, concern, or consideration for their needs or feelings.

Great definition but now let's put it into action. We all want children with good character and a big part of that is respect. First things first. Make sure you have good boundaries with your child. Parents are parents NOT best friends. It is dif-

ficult and confusing for children if you act like a friend one minute and then want them to obey the next. Healthy relationships exist when there is a clear distinction between roles. Discipline should be fair and respectful; avoid name calling or put downs. Get in alignment with your mate and provide a united front so your children understand expectations. Correct disrespectful behavior early on and do not let it continue.

While your 5 year old's behavior may be amusing to some do you really want this behavior to continue when she's 14? Provide opportunities to teach and practice social skills through interactions with peers as well as different groups of people. Allowing your child to interact with the elderly, people who speak different lan-

guages, etc. provides a robust opportunity for a teachable moment.

Here are some age appropriate expectations for your elementary aged child:

- Use good manners
- Clean up after yourself
- Put things away where they belong after using them
- Keep your word
- Be on time

With a little practice your child will be showing R-E-S-P-E-C-T in no time!



School Success Tips:

- Discuss how your child can show respect to their classmates
- Attending Class Time is a great way to show respect to the teacher!
- Practice Cyber Safety—respectful online behavior



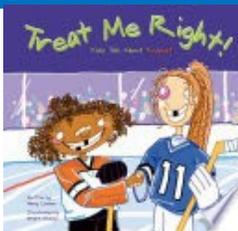
Helpful Links

[Do Your Kids Respect You? 9 Ways to Change Their Atti-](#)

[20 Ways to Teach Kids About Respect](#)



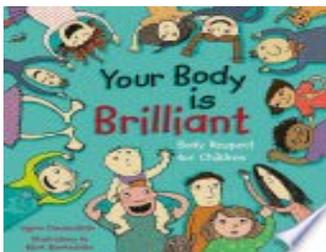
Live, Love, Learn Respect



One of the best ways to really drive home a point is to read books on the topic together! Here are three books that would make great learning tools as you discuss respect.

“Treat Me Right” by Nancy Loewen is written in the form of an advice column for kids. Easy to read it covers topics such as respect for oneself, others, and property.

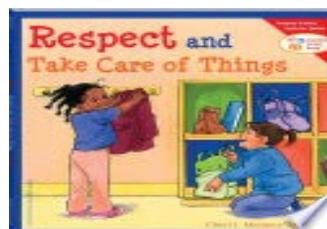
The topic of respecting one's body is a hot one in today's day and age. Written by Sigrun Danielsdottir “Your



Suggested Literature

“Body is Brilliant” helps children learn to accept and respect their unique bodies.

Finally “Respect and Take Care of Things” by Cheri J. Meiners is great for younger children. This book gives specific directions!



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