

May Activities

Respect



Activity #1 – What Respect Sounds Like

What You'll Need: Index cards, pen or pencil

Prepare

Write kind phrases and actions on index cards.

Learn

Read the cards one by one. As a family, separate the “What respect LOOKS like” from “What respect sounds like.” This is a fun activity to teach positive expectations.

Follow-up

Additionally, using the “What does respect sound like” cards, what happens when you read them with a sarcastic tone?

Activity #2 – Create Your Family's Respect Crest

What You'll Need: Template of a crest

Prepare

Download a blank family crest/shield onto card stock.

Learn

Using the example “Family Respect Rules” below or by brainstorming your own, pick the top 4 or 5 for your family.

1. We speak respectfully about God. We are quiet and attentive during prayer.
2. We knock before entering bedrooms and bathrooms.
3. We ask before we take food from another person's plate.
4. We ask before borrowing someone else's things.
5. We stay quiet when others are on the phone.
6. We do not interrupt when another person is talking.
7. We listen when others speak.
8. We keep a clean house by putting things back where they belong so others can find them and so others don't have to pick up our things.
9. We speak respectfully, even when we are upset with each other.
10. We eat the food prepared for us without complaining.
11. We honor and show respect for others by letting them go ahead of us or giving them the more desirable seat or treat.
12. We take the garbage out when it is full rather than overloading it.
13. If God made it (animals, trees, plants and people), we don't hurt it.
14. We close doors quietly and gently.
15. We don't make fun of others when they are having trouble with something, when they make a mistake, when they get hurt or if they are different.
16. We are quiet when others are sleeping.
17. We take good care of our furniture, clothing, toys, books, home and vehicle.

Once your family has picked the top family respect rules, let each family member draw a picture to represent what the respect rule looks like. Glue each picture onto the crest and hang it up as a reminder.

Activity #2 – Handle with Care

What You'll Need: Eggs, outdoor space

Learn

Team up in pairs, and give each pair an egg. Begin by passing the raw egg back and forth between two people or around in a circle. Keep backing up and increasing the distance of the toss. The egg may or may not break.

Explain that people are fragile like eggs. Humans don't have shells, but people can have sensitive feelings. Treating others with consideration demonstrates respect for their feelings. Once they understand that we should treat others with kind words and actions. Ask, what if this egg was your sister's favorite toy? How should we treat her possessions respectfully?

Activity #3 – It's TOP-SECRET Field Trip Time

What You'll Need: Your time (have a stopwatch if you really want to have some additional fun with older children) and a destination plan, a mission-accomplished, small (really small) reward.

Prepare

Set your family up for success, make sure everyone knows how to be respectful in a variety of public situations.

Learn

How do you teach your children to be respectful and helpful at the...store, library, restaurant, etc.? Play this fun game and everyone will win (and learn). Pick a location for your top-secret mission. Before going in, make sure everyone understands the rules. 1. Be respectful to EVERYONE and everything as soon as you exit the vehicle. 2. This is TOP SECRET, so we can not tell anyone else our mission. Your mission: Show so much respect that a stranger comments. It can be respect for each other, respect for other people, respect for inanimate objects. The mission of the assignment is to be so respectful, someone else comments about how respectful your family is. Have some code words ready such as "Agents, be alert", if your children need to refocus on their mission.

Follow up

This is not a "be kind and I will buy you a candy bar" game, but rather a time-tested activity to show your children that other people will notice respectful behavior, and who doesn't like a good spy game!