

Courtesy

Magic Words

Create a track out of blocks, with chalk, or using a line of rocks outside. Have some cars for the children and yourself, and have the cars follow the track. If they need to pass each other say "excuse me" and use other magic words such as "thank you," "please," and "sorry."

"Excuse Me"

Have the children use a phone (or a pretend phone) to take turns receiving calls and have the child not talking wait patiently. If the child not on the phone needs to speak to the child on the phone, have them practice saying "excuse me." Practice waiting patiently while an adult is in a group setting. For example, when the child needs to speak to their mother or father while they are talking with a group of grown-ups.

The Restaurant Game

Pretend you are eating at a restaurant. Practice ordering politely, being patient waiting for the food to come, saying thank you when the food arrives, trying new foods, and playing quietly at the table until everyone finishes their food. Talk about how people work hard to prepare food in a restaurant (the cook, the waiter, the cleaner) and how we can show our gratitude by being respectful and courteous.

The Sneezing Puppet

Have a puppet show for the children, during which the puppet has a cold and says "excuse me" after a sneeze, covering their mouth with an arm when they cough, and wiping/blowing their nose with a tissue. Explain to the children that we should never spread our germs when we are sick. Covering our mouths and cleanly wiping our noses is courteous.

Creating a Courtesy Banner

Tape several pieces of paper together or get a large poster board. Write "Courteous Behavior" and illustrate all the examples of courtesy you can. This is how we show courtesy!

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Welcome to My Home

Have a doll outside the door. Welcome the doll in and say, "Nice to meet you." Ask polite questions and help children answer courteously. Show them how to ask a guest to sit down, offer a drink, say "excuse me" to leave, etc. Talk about the importance of welcoming others into our home or classroom and showing hospitality.

Talking Sticks

When in a group of people, we practice courtesy by taking turns talking and listening politely when others have their turn. A Talking Stick is a prop that helps us know whose turn it is to talk. When someone is holding the Talking Stick, everyone else must be quiet and listen to him or her. Then they hand the Talking Stick to the next child.

Make a Talking Stick by finding a stick, tying ribbons with beads or feathers to it, and decorating with stickers or colored tape.

Gifting with Courtesy

Wrap some pretend gifts and have the children practice giving them to each other saying "thank you" and "you're welcome."

Please Pass the Hat

The children sit in a circle and the parent or teacher hands one child a beautifully decorated hat.

When the music plays, the hat is passed around the circle.

The child who is next to receive the hat says, "May I have the hat, please?"

Once they receive the hat, they say, "Thank you." The child who gives them the hat says, "You're welcome."

One child could be responsible for stopping the music intermittently while keeping their eyes closed.

When the music stops, the child holding the hat gets to wear the hat for a few moments before the game continues.