

Obedience

“May I?”

When we obey we pay attention to instructions given to us by our parents and teachers. In this game one person is the Parent /Teacher and stands on one side of the room. The other children stand on the opposite side. They ask “Mother/Teacher may I” and insert action phrases (like “jump three times” or “hop forward twice”) in order to get closer to the Mother/Teacher. The Mother/Teacher can say, “Yes you may” or “No you may not” and suggest something else instead. The object of the game is to get close enough to hug. Practice following instructions and then switch roles.

Obedient in Our Community

Visit a bank or post office and talk about how the people who work in these places make sure everyone in the community follow the rules. Following rules keeps us all safe so we can live together in peace.

When We Are Obedient

One rule in most homes and classrooms is that everyone should help tidy up. Draw a picture of everything you use each day, all left out in one room. Imagine what it would be like if no one obeyed the rule of tidying up and all these things were piled up instead of being put in their place. This would not be a very well organized home or classroom, nor very fun to play, learn or live in! When we are obedient, we clean up after ourselves both literally and figuratively. We obey rules in order to keep our lives in order.

Keeping out of Danger

Practice crossing the road together: looking both ways, holding hands, and listening carefully to instructions. Obedience keeps us out of danger.

Different Rules for Different Places

Make a list of places you spend time in, such as your home, the library, school, the post office, or the grocery store. Discuss how we must obey the rules for the place we are in. Rules can depend on the purpose of the place and what is there, so we should be careful to always pay attention to the different rules in various places we go.

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Following a Recipe

Choose a food to bake, for real or as pretend. Show how you cannot put the ingredients in the oven before mixing, you have to measure the correct amounts for the dish to come out right, etc. Being obedient is following directions closely; there is a wisdom you may not yet know.

Obedience Poster

Make a poster titled "Being obedient keeps us safe." Draw ways obedience keeps us safe, such as not touching sharp objects without help, staying clear of dangerous machines or animals, or not playing with fire.

Sandy Says

The children sit in a circle and the teacher or parent plays the part of 'Sandy', who's part it is to give the children directions that they must follow. Explain to them:

"Today we are going to play a game in which our friend Sandy tells us to do things which we must obey and do. So, if I say, "Sandy says stand up please" everyone should stand up. But, if I just say, "Stand up," you should not stand up because Sandy didn't say so."

Give a few examples, such as, "Sandy says touch your head," "Sandy says clap your hands," etc. Then give the command without saying "Sandy says..."

When the children have learned the game, they can take turns giving the directions as 'Sandy'.