

Courtesy

Pass the Apple

Objective: To learn to be friendly and courteous with each other by asking and responding politely.

The children pass the apple around, using courteous language:

“Would you like an apple?”

“Yes, please...thank you.”

“You are welcome.”

Ask: “How does it feel when someone talks to you with courteous words.”

Liong and His Friend

Objective: To recognize courteous behavior.

Read the story, “Liong and His Friend”. If you have already read the story, read it for a second time. Ensure that all children are holding either 2 spoons or a shaker. By this stage, the children should have a good idea about what Courtesy ‘looks’ like in action and ‘sounds’ like in conversations. Explain to the children that as the teacher reads the story again, when they hear a character in the story do or say something Courteous, they should make a noise with their spoons or shakers.

The teacher may help the children to recognize these sections of the story by changing the tone of voice or looking at the children instead of the paper she is reading from.

After you have read the story, ask children to recall in what ways Liong practiced courtesy and how they can also use these in their own life.

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Introductions

Objective: To learn to be friendly and courteous with each other by politely introducing a friend.

The children are seated in a circle or around a table. Each gets to introduce the person sitting to the right, telling the others something about that person. For example, "This is Eliza. She likes to read books and play tennis."

Please Pass the Hat

Objective: To help children learn good manners and taking turns.

This game teaches children good manners and taking turns.
All the children sit in a circle.

When the music plays, a hat is passed around.

The child about 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."

A child should close his eyes and be in charge of stopping the music intermittently.

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

N.B. (the hat should be as beautiful and cultural as possible)

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Good Listener

Objective: To help the children appreciate and practice courteous behaviour by listening attentively.

A child speaks for one minute about a familiar subject (e.g., favorite food or pet), twice.

The first time, the rest of the children are allowed to talk to each other, share their own stories and play with someone next to them during the speech.

The second time, invite the children to be 'good listeners' by keeping eye contact with the speaker, listening attentively and asking relevant questions after the speech.

Ask the speaker to express how it felt the first time compared to the second time.

Allow a few children to experience this activity.

Musical Chairs

Objective: To help children learn sharing and hospitality.

Chairs should be arranged in a line or circle. Children stand behind the chairs. (Cushions can be used instead of chairs). As the music plays, the children walk around the chairs. When the music stops, they sit on the chairs.

As there will be fewer chairs than children, some children will have to share their chairs. They can sit side by side, or in each other's laps. One chair is taken out and the music starts again.

Chairs continue to be reduced until it is no longer possible to accommodate all the children.

Make it meaningful! Children can be encouraged to invite the standing children to their chairs and practice the words used for hospitality/courtesy.

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Turns, Turns

Objective: To learn to share, wait and take turns.

One of the most unpleasant realities young children have to face is the idea of taking turns. Sometimes it is much more fun to have something all to yourself first, which makes it difficult for the children to take turns. Here is an activity that reinforces the idea that taking turns is all part of the game.

CHANT:

Turns, turns, we all take turns.
_____ (name) goes first,
and _____ goes next.

Show your group an unusual object that is not too complicated. A toy that spins when you push a button, clicks when you press it or creaks when you spin it is perfect for this game. Hold it up, demonstrate it, and then chant together.

Example:

Turns, turns, we all take turns.
Bonnie goes first and Sheila goes next.
Sheila takes the toy and plays with it while the group sings:
Turns, turns, we all take turns.
Sheila goes first, and Anis goes next.

You may have to speed the song up or slow it down or add some words. For example, "It's hard to let go of your turn, but it's Janie's turn now. You can have another turn later."

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Pass the Overripe Banana

Objective: To practice using and appreciating courteous language.

The children pass around the overripe banana using courteous language:

“Would you like a banana?”

“No, thank you.”

Pardon Me, Whispers

Objective: To practice using courteous language.

The teacher whispers something to a child so softly it is inaudible. The child asks her to repeat what she said, using courteous language: “Pardon Me?” The teacher repeats what she said in a clear voice.