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**PROJECT  
CORNERSTONE**  
A YMCA of Silicon Valley Initiative

## ABC KINDERGARTEN LESSON #7

### *Be Polite and Kind*

By Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills:** Communication

**Common Core Standards:** The following standards are taught through the reading and activities for *Be Polite and Kind*. Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

R. 1., 3., 6., 10. a., b. and Speaking and Listening 1., 3.

### MESSAGE TO ABC READERS

*Be Polite and Kind* focuses on manners such as courtesy, respect, and kindness. The book helps children learn that good manners help everyone get along and do kind acts. This book works well with the ABC book, *Have You Filled a Bucket*.

#### Asset Information:

- #26: Caring
- #30: Family Values Responsibility
- #37: Personal Power
- #32: Planning and Decision Making
- #33: Interpersonal Skills

### LESSON

#### Conversation Starter:

This lesson uses the "Thumbs Up" technique of answering questions. This allows you to check if most of the students understand what you are asking and provides a way for students to silently respond without yelling out answers. Tell the students you are going to ask a question and they can answer with their thumbs. Show them thumbs up for yes and thumbs down for no and thumbs sideways. Have everyone make thumb movements with you. Test out their understanding by asking a few questions and looking for thumb answers.

- Make a sad face and ask if this is a sad face.
- Make a happy face and ask if this is a happy face.

Last month we talked about we talked about understanding feelings. Show me with your body language, not your words how you are feeling today.

#### Read the book

This month's book is called *Be Polite and Kind* by Cheri J. Meiners. How many of you think Meredith Johnson is the illustrator? Show me with a thumbs up. Wow lots of you said yes! Why? Call on students with raised hands. Answers may include that the illustrations have similar colors, or that the people look the same.

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Tell students before you start; you are going to give them a job to do. They need to use their listening ears to listen for some magic manner words in this story. Ask if they already know some magic manner words. Ask them to name some for you. Call on students with raised hands. Tell students that their job is to give you a thumbs up whenever they hear a magic manner word—it can be a new one or one you already know.

Read the story slowly, making sure to follow through with the magic thumbs game. At the end of the book, give the class feedback on their ability to identify the magic manner words.

### **Discussion:**

(You may want to read through the book once and then go back and ask the questions, or it may seem more natural to ask them as you go. In case they are having a hard time paying attention, the more important questions are in **bold text**.)

1. Who do you talk with every day? What do you say?
2. **What does it mean to be polite or kind? How does it feel when someone uses polite and kind words?**
3. (Read and point to each polite phrase.) **When do you say this? What are some other ways to say it?**
4. Why is it important to be polite and kind?
5. When people do nice things for each other, we call them *acts of kindness*. What *acts of kindness* have you done for other people?

### **GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

Choose one of the following activities for the class.

#### **Manners Songs**

Choose one of the songs on the Manners Song Handout. Teach the students the words, act out some of the actions and sing the song together. If there are sign language words, incorporate the correct sign into your singing.

#### **Manners Signing**

Teach children how to use American Sign Language (ASL) to sign the respectful words listed on page 33 of *Be Polite and Kind*.



#### **Courtesy Role-Plays**

Have the children role-play the following scenarios with each other or bring in puppets, dolls, action figures, or stuffed animals. If your students are new to role-playing, demonstrate for them with a few students at a time before having them role-play by themselves in pairs.

- Mealtime—Role-play serving and passing food. Focus on “please” and “thank you”, on chewing with lips closed, and on waiting to speak until all food is swallowed.
- Telephone—Use play phones to role-play calling someone and answering the phone.
- Friends at the door—Role-play greetings and leave taking (I don’t understand what leave taking is).
- A party—Practice welcoming guests, thanking them for sharing toys, gifts and using

good manners.

- Bus or car pool—Role-play greeting the driver, using seatbelts, sitting and talking quietly, and thanking the driver for a ride.
- Play or sports—Role-play including all who want to play, taking turns, and giving encouragement to other players.

You can also go back through the book and have the students role-play the situations illustrated in the book. They can add more dialogue to the pages.

### **Class Tea Party**

Materials: paper cups, food, napkins, tablecloth, utensils, pitchers

Set up a table or desks for students to role-play using their manners to ask for drink and food. Work with students on saying, "Please pass the \_\_\_\_\_. Would you like \_\_\_\_ to drink? Yes, thank you.No, thank you." Model chewing food and not talking, using a napkin to wipe fingers and mouth.

### **\*Grow a Kindness Garden**

Material: paper, crayons

Ask the students if they can define the word kindness. If you have read *Have you Filled a Bucket* you can talk about being a *bucket filler*. Make a list of kind things you can do for each other. (Give a hug, smile, take out the trash, set the table, be an *UP-stander* when someone was teased, share your cookie). Decide on some action ideas that each kindergartener can do that week as an act of kindness. Have them draw a picture that illustrates what they are going to do and sign their name.

## **Supplemental Lesson using *May I Please Have a Cookie?***

By an ABC Reader

I wanted to let you know that I found a cute book to read with the kinder March story, *Be Polite and Kind*. The name of the book is *May I Please Have a Cookie?* I just did the lesson in class and the kids loved it. Here's what I did.

First, I read *Be Polite and Kind*. Then I asked the class to think of magic manner words.

Second, I pulled out the magic manner words (written on strips of paper) one at a time from a paper magic hat (from my son's magic kit). After the class read each word, I taught them the sign language symbol for it (at the back of the *Be Polite and Kind* book).

Third, I read *May I Please Have a Cookie?* Each time the kids heard a magic manner word, they showed me a thumbs up.

Fourth, I pulled out a dragon puppet from the magic hat. (Unfortunately, I didn't have an alligator puppet since the book is about an alligator. But the dragon is green with teeth like an alligator. So we just pretended). Then we played a game using the puppet. I would describe a situation like, "It's your birthday and you just got a present from your friend. What would you say? OR You just sneezed. What would you say? OR You need to ask your teacher to go the bathroom. How would you ask?" After the first situation, I threw the





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puppet to someone sitting quietly. That child would then put on the puppet, and say the appropriate magic manner word or phrase. Then I would describe a new situation, and the child with the puppet would throw it to another child who is sitting quietly. We did this game until everyone had a chance to respond. They really liked this activity a lot.

Then finally, while the kids were playing this game, I snuck some cookies into the magic hat. So after the activity, I pulled the cookies out of the hat. The kids took turns coming up to me and asking for a cookie.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills:**

Here is a key to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills used in this lesson:

<b>21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills</b>	
	Collaboration
	Critical Thinking
	Communication
	Creativity