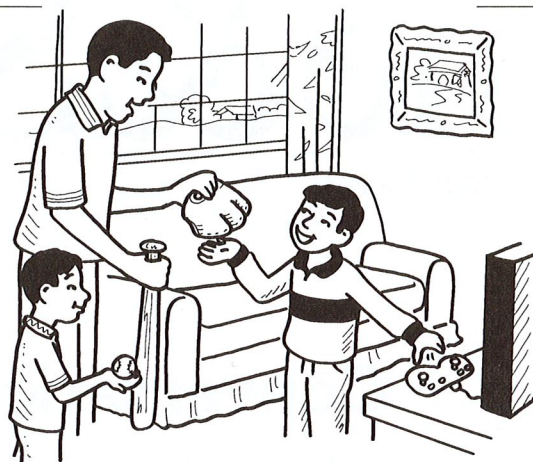


What does respect look like?

Your youngster's daily dealings with adults and kids alike will be more pleasant if he speaks and acts respectfully. Try these tips for helping him learn about respect.

Respectful replies. Think about something that you and your youngster disagree on (say, whether his video game time should be limited). Model having a respectful discussion about it. You might say that his brain and body are growing and that he needs to run and play to stay healthy. Then, suggest a respectful response, such as, "I



want to be healthy, but I love video games." Have him brainstorm other situations where people have different opinions but still speak to each other with respect.

Everyday acts. When you mow the lawn or clean up after your dog, you can teach your child about respect for neighbors.

Explain that keeping your neighborhood clean and neat makes it nice for everyone. Ask him to think of other respectful things neighbors should do. If you share an apartment laundry room, he might say that you respect neighbors' time by removing your clothes when they're done so others get to use the washers and dryers.♥

A reading challenge

By reading more complex books, your child can learn new words, facts, and ideas. He'll also be exposed to more complicated plots and will grow as a reader. Share these suggestions:

- Knowing something about the topic or setting makes a tougher book easier to comprehend. If your youngster is reading a novel set in France, he could talk to someone who has been there or look up the country online (try a children's site like *kids.nationalgeographic.com*).



- Encourage your child to look at a simpler book on the same subject. A picture-book biography about Harriet Tubman may help your youngster better understand a textbook chapter on the civil rights movement, for instance.

- Suggest that your child read complicated material with pencil and paper in hand. He can jot down questions, words to look up, or facts he wants to learn more about.♥

Q & A

Strong study habits

Q: My third grader has to spend more time studying this year. How can I make sure she studies effectively?

A: Set your daughter up for success by helping her find a distraction-free study spot. Also, have her come up with a study routine. For instance, she could reserve time each evening to review her textbook and notes in the days leading up to a test.

Also, many students find it helpful to jot down a purpose each time they study. Your child might write: "I will learn the definitions of all the boldfaced words in chapter 7, section 1."

Finally, encourage her to experiment with study strategies to find what works best. She could close her eyes and imagine how a word is spelled or draw a grid with 9 squares to solve 3×3 . Or she might find it helpful to spell or recite math facts aloud in rhythm or to a familiar tune.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

How to be careful online

With my daughter using the internet more for schoolwork, I was concerned she would wander to unsafe sites. We set up parental controls as her teacher recommended, and I try to stay nearby when she's on the computer.

But my older sister reminded me that while supervision is important, Sophie needs to learn safe habits to use on her own. So I explained to

Sophie that real-life safety rules apply online.

For instance, she shouldn't talk to strangers or go places she's not allowed. Before visiting a new site, she has to check with me so I can make sure it's appropriate. And just as in real life, she needs to tell me right away if a stranger tries to contact her or if she sees something confusing or upsetting.

I feel better that Sophie has ground rules, and I am going to keep this conversation going.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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www.rfeonline.com

ISSN 1540-5621