

Cool Tools
North Tonawanda Middle School
Respect in the Classroom

School-wide Expectation: **Respect**
Name of Skill: **Showing respect in the classroom**
Setting: **Classroom**

Purpose of lesson/why it's important:

- 1) To increase students' on-task behaviors.
- 2) To teach a life skill.
- 3) To create a positive learning environment for all students.

Teaching examples: (teacher directions are in bold print)

- 1) Ask the students if they remember a time when they were annoyed by someone's behavior in the classroom (ex: constantly talking out of turn, people coming in late, having their desk kicked, etc.). As the students are commenting, discuss how the person could have alleviated this annoyance. Next, pass out sentence strips or large size post-its to each student. Have the students write one positive behavior they can perform in the classroom to make it more successful. **(Prior to class or while the students are writing, create 6 columns on the board. Write one of the following phrases above each column: Give your best effort, Wait your turn to speak, Arrive on time, Bring materials, Stay on task, Treat school and other's property with care.)** When students are done, give them 5 minutes to approach the board and tape their strip or put their post-it in the correct column – students may help each other but **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO TALK (yes, all of them may go up at once – you are working on team building as well)**. After 5 minutes, discuss each behavior. **(Is it in the correct column? Is it a positive behavior they/you would like to see in the classroom? Why?)** If the students didn't place a behavior on the board that you feel is important, make sure you add it. **(*Remember to keep the discussion short and to the point otherwise you will run out of time.)**
- 2) Demonstrate many acceptable and not acceptable expectations. Let the students explain to you why it is or is not an acceptable expectation. For example, role-play a student who never brings paper to class and continuously asks their neighbor while the teacher is talking. Ask the students if it is acceptable and what this student should be doing. **(*This is definitely for a teacher that doesn't mind taking a risk in front of their new students by being goofy).**
- 3) Create a specialized discussion/activity for the students that are in the class. Help them set up a schedule of when to go to their lockers and figure out what they might need to bring to class (this may need to wait for a few days after students become familiar with their schedule and where they are going). Take them to their lockers and help them set it up. This is a good time to discuss treating school property with care. Take them back to the classroom and demonstrate being on time. **(Set a time limit prior to going to lockers.)** Show and explain how to give their best effort and waiting your turn.

Kid activities/role plays:

- 1) Ask students to role-play example #2.
- 2) Have students break up into groups to think of a ways this is used in the real world. Come together as a whole class to discuss what they find.
- 3) Practice this skill throughout the year.

Follow-up/Reinforcement activities:

- 1) Watch how students behave in class and reward correct behaviors.
- 2) Ask students to self-critique their behavior throughout the week to see how they are improving.