Mind Your Manners

Students will practice using good manners and reflect on how being polite can encourage sharing and cooperation.

Lesson Background for Teachers

This lesson builds on previous lessons in this unit. Manners and respect are insep-arable. Some students may not have guardians who model good manners, so it’s important to continue practicing and reinforcing these skills at school.

Key Terms for Students

Consider writing key terms on the board before class to introduce vocabulary and increase understanding.

- **RESPECT**: Treating people, places, and things with kindness.
- **GOOD MANNERS**: Behaving and speaking in an appropriate way. Using language like: please, thank you, excuse me or sorry.
- **COOPERATE**: To work together.
- **POLITE**: Showing good manners or respect for others.

TIPS FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Students might benefit from:

- Having the phrases “Thank You” “I’m sorry” and “Excuse Me” written on separate pieces of paper and holding them up at the appropriate time in the song.
- Listening to the Mr. Manners song during choice time. Consider having a recording of this song available in the classroom along with a printed copy of the words for students to practice and follow along.
RAK lessons teach kindness skills through a step-by-step framework of **Inspire**, **Empower**, **Act** and **Share**.

The **Share** step in the first lesson of each unit is intended to set the tone for teaching kindness.

### Resources

For a related video, watch The Berenstain Bears Forget Their Manners: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Fm8HHoVvto](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Fm8HHoVvto)

### Share (3 mins)

Have students share with a partner a time when they used **good manners** at school.

### Inspire (10 mins)

#### Activity

Ask the students to stand up by the desks. Before we start today, could someone tell me a word or phrase that you could say to your classmates that would show **good manners**?

Then let’s sing a song together that will help us learn more **good manners**.

**Option One:** “Mr. Manners Matters” cued from YouTube.

Play through the song once for the students and then invite students to sing and dance along. Play a few times.

**Option Two:** (if you don’t have access to AV equipment):

**Manners Song.** This song is sung to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.” Practice the song a few times in order to figure out how the words fit with the tune.

**Verse 1:**

When my grandpa gives me something, I say thank you.  
When my grandma gives me something, I say thank you.  
I can see it makes them happy,  
When I say it so **politely**.  
Yes, **good manners** mean to always say thank you!

**Verse 2:**

If I spill my drink at lunch, I say I’m sorry.  
When I break your toy, I say I’m sorry.  
I can see it makes you happy,  
When I say it so **politely**.  
Yes, **good manners** mean to always say I’m sorry!

**Verse 3:**

If I bump into you, I say excuse me.  
If I need to interrupt, I say excuse me.  
I can see it makes you happy,  
When I say it so **politely**.  
Yes, **good manners** mean to always say excuse me!  

The RAK paradigm is the framework for teaching and building kindness skills.
Empower (15 mins)

Discussion (10 mins)

Option One: After you finish listening to the song, ask the students:

- What words does Mr. Manners say show good manners? (Thank you. Excuse me. You’re welcome. Please.)
- What are some other words that show good manners? (I’m sorry. Yes, sir. No, ma’am. After you, sir.)
- How do you feel when people say please, thank you, and other polite words to you?
- Do you think it is important to use these words? Why or why not?
- Do you think manners can help us learn to cooperate and share in the classroom? In what ways?

Option Two: After singing the song, ask the students:

- What are some words in the song that show good manners? (Thank you. I’m sorry. Excuse me.)
- How do you feel when people say please, thank you, and other polite words to you?
- Do you think it is important to use these words? Why or why not?
- Do you think manners can help us learn to cooperate and share in the classroom?

Wrap Up (5 mins)

To gauge understanding of the material, choose from either the evaluation or reflection questions as discussion, writing or journal prompts. Consider providing additional time for deeper evaluation and reflection as needed.

Evaluation Questions

- What are 3 ways you can use your manners at school?
- What are 3 ways you can use your manners at home?

Reflection Questions

- Do you think using good manners and being polite show kindness to other people? Why or why not?
- How can we show other people that we respect them?

Summary

There are so many ways we can use our manners to be polite and kind to other people. By using our manners at school and at home, we can help make ourselves and others happy.

Act (2 mins)

Kindness Minute

Thank the person next to you for something nice they have done.

Kindness in Action

When you leave school today, thank your teacher, friend, parent or sibling for something nice they have done. On a piece of paper write or draw who you thanked and why you thanked them.