

Building Respect

Be specific when talking about respect

The best way to get your child to show respect is not by talking about an abstract idea that may be hard for her to understand. Instead, try talking about very specific actions she can take to show her respect.

For example, when your child interrupts, you might say, "When someone else is talking, it's respectful to listen until the person is finished. Then you can take your turn."

You can also ask if your child can come up with specific behaviors that would show respect. "What can you do to show your teacher respect?" Your child could raise her hand, complete homework on time and pay attention in class.

Later, when your child has done something respectful, help her make the link. "I loved the way you showed respect when Mr. Jones called. You carefully wrote down the message so I knew when to call him back."

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