

# TEACHING SOCIAL NORMS

Raising Happy Kids

Lesson Outline: A group of 2 - 4 children (2.5 - 5 years)

1. Introduce the topic - e.g. "I am going to show you how we observe another person's work"
2. Walk up to another child working and stand quietly with your hands behind your back. Observe silently. Make sure your group is watching you.
3. Invite the children in your group to practice. E.g. "You may observe another person's work, *Charlie*"
4. All watch *Charlie* observing someone working.
5. Tell your group, "Now you know how to observe someone while they are working. You may practice this whenever you like."

*If you are working with just one child, the two of you can act out the scenario. E.g. "You may practice watching someone else's work."*

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More Lessons (the list is endless!)

## #1 Greeting Others

People you know -

- "Hello. It is nice to see you."
- "Good morning. How was your weekend?"

People you are meeting for the first time -

- "Hello. It is nice to meet you. My name is \_\_\_\_."

## #2 Interrupting a Conversation

1. Stand quietly for a moment, wait for a lull in the conversation or until someone pauses the conversation and looks at you.
2. Then ask, "Excuse me" and wait until the person looks at you.
  - a. Some teachers tell children to put a hand on the adult's shoulder to alert them to a pending question, but other teachers find this annoying, so it depends on how you feel about it.
  - b. If you teach your child to put his or her hand on your shoulder, make sure that you discuss the need to wait (not tap) for the person to acknowledge him or her.

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## **#3 Thank You**

Introduce "thank you/eso" and "you are welcome" in a simple role-playing situation. If you use this language with your child in a normal context, he or she will naturally adopt it.

## **#4 Sneezing and Coughing**

Cough into the crook of your arm or into a tissue. Demonstrate how to fold the handkerchief with the sneezed on side, inside.

## **#5 Yawning**

Cover your mouth with your hand and turn your head down and to the side. Say, "excuse me" if you yawn while talking with someone.

*As other occasions arise, use the structure of these simple presentations to introduce other skills.*