

Words of the Week in Unit 4

Friendship: Caring between people who choose to be together

Respect: To show special care for people

Empathy: To think how others feel

Kindness To care for others and take thoughtful actions

Cooperation: To work with others for a common purpose

How can I contribute to my child's success and happiness and encourage positive actions?

As your child grows it is important that he or she has a chance to succeed. When your child learns to act independently and responsibly, a sense of self-worth will develop. Offer support and try not to do everything yourself. That will help your child develop his or her own personal abilities.

Offer guidance

- Listen, discuss, offer advice.
- Guide and support homework efforts and other tasks, but let your child do the work themselves.
- Teach skills, such as how to cook or how to play music. Let your child know you had to learn what you know now and that he or she can learn too.
- Help analyze problems and break them into smaller, solvable problems.
- Let your child know that you are watching out for his or her well-being.
- Explain your decisions.
- Be sensitive to your child's concerns. Ask about them. Any problem is important if it worries your child. Follow up.
- Offer firm boundaries and guidelines.

Build responsibility in your child

- Give your child responsibilities.
- Tell your child how important and helpful he or she is.
- Discuss the necessity of the task.
- Point out that this special positive action of "responsibility" will help him or her, the family, or someone else.

How can I reinforce Positive Action concepts from Unit 4 at home?



Treat others as you like to be treated. This philosophy is the basis behind the "**Getting Along with Others**" unit.

More than a motto, it is a practical guide for everyone. It teaches your child to understand others, to try to think well of them, and to act toward them with fairness, respect, and kindness.

Cooperation, sharing, smiling, saying hello, and remembering names are some of the positive actions students will learn in this unit. The following activities can help your child with their development.

- **Practice being kind.** Together with your child, do something nice for someone.
- **Practice showing empathy.** Share with your child how it would feel to be someone else, especially someone less fortunate. A real-life situation, story you read together, or a TV program can help start the discussion.
- **Listen closely to your child.** Show genuine interest. Listening skills are important for getting along with others. Your good example helps your child learn to listen. Show your child that it is best not to interrupt or begin speaking about something else until the person talking is finished. Sometimes, when you're busy, you may have to say "Could we talk about this later?" Remember to listen to the child later, when you have time.
- **Practice seeing the good in others.** Ask your child and other family members to list things they like about other people. Your child will better understand people who might seem different if you explain some things about their background and what their life is like. Help your child see that differences as well as similarities can be positive values.

What is occurring in the Unit 4 Lessons?

Positive Action gives students a clear way to think about social acceptance. The key is to treat people the way they, themselves, like to be treated. With some analysis and practice, students quickly learn to treat people positively, and then feel the positive behaviors return to them. At each grade level, the students develop a classroom Code of Conduct: a set of rules that encourage kindness, honesty, fairness, and respect.

K

The students travel on a boat with the jungle animals to "Getting Along with Others Island". There they meet the forest animals, who have traveled to the same island. The jungle animals and the forest animals are very different from each other, and are suspicious and frightened at first, but eventually become good friends. Nix-It, still being trained by Picks-It, passes his test and receives his key for getting along with others.

1st

Polly the Friendship Parrot teaches the children how to be good friends. They have to use cooperation when all participate in coloring her poster. Positive Pat and Negative Ned return, as does Maurice Mouse, to help the children understand what it means to treat others positively. The children put these lessons into practice when they are assigned a "positive pal" to treat with kindness and respect.

2nd

The second-grade teacher uses a magnifying glass to look around the room and see the best in everyone. The children see this principle applied when they hear the story of Maxmillian, the lion king, who learns from his father to treat others as he would like to be treated. The "Friendship Tree" is a poster that symbolizes the attitude children should have in making and keeping friends. They hang grapes, an orange, an apple, a peach, a pear, a banana, a plum, a strawberry, and a lemon on the tree. These "Fruits of Friendship" each symbolizes positive actions that good friends use.

3rd

Third graders meet some children who learn about friendship. Mike, a boy who didn't want to travel with his parents to Europe because he had no friends there, learns that he can meet new friends everywhere he goes. Win Cho Luc, who moves to America, is very unhappy until Robert treats him as a friend. From these images, the students go on to define friendship and the positive actions that lead to good feelings between people.

4th

Twins Kurt and Kevin, little sister Samantha, and even their cat, Perkins, need a "refresher course" in getting along. Fourth graders learn, along with these children to treat others as they would like to be treated, in other words, with fairness, honesty, respect, courtesy, and patience. They also learn with an old hermit, that the search for happiness is within oneself, not outside. They spend a day in class applying this lesson by treating others well, and finding the satisfaction within themselves.

All students learn the following specific positive ways of dealing with others:

Respect: looking for the good in others

Empathy: thinking of how others feel

Friendliness: smiling and saying hello

Kindness: helping others

Cooperation: getting along with others

Positiveness: feeling good about yourself, and helping others feel good too