

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.

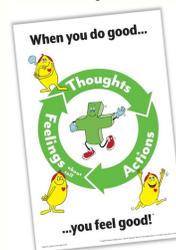
Offer guidance

- 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.

If You Ask Me...

Directions: Complete the following sentences to express your feelings about getting along with others.

- The world would be a better place if everyone _____

- Other people are important because _____

- If I could teach everyone in the world one thing, it would be _____

- One thing I like about my friends is _____

- Helping others is _____

- When somebody is nice to me, I _____

- I hate it when someone _____

- A smile can _____

- Recently I did something nice for someone by _____

- When I treat people as I want to be treated _____

- Looking for the good in others is a habit that _____

- Cooperation is important because _____

- I like being with people when _____

- I can make _____'s day happier by _____

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5th

A girl named Ann learns the very difficult lesson that she cannot buy friends. But another character, Superfriend, knows all the right ways to treat people, and he makes friends wherever he goes. The children learn important concepts, such as greeting others by name, showing empathy, smiling, being thoughtful, saying "thank you" saying nice things about others, enjoying humor, and looking on the bright side of situations.

6th

The sixth-grade unit opens with a short story about a girls' basketball team. Sheila, the best player, is much more interested in winning than she is in treating the other girls with friendship and respect. In response to this thought-provoking story, sixth graders work out their own Code of Conduct. The students practice looking for the good in others, saying nice things about others, and listening. A story called "The Unicorn" calls on the students to think about empathy—understanding the way others feel.