



Primary Success Publications

# *Successful Social Studies* Kindergarten



*By Jean Roberts*

Practical lessons to teach Social Studies  
in this important grade



**Primary Success Publications®** By Jean Roberts

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# Good Manners



Hello, please,  
thank you,  
excuse me,  
I'm sorry!

This subject is *SOCIAL* studies, after all, and to be able to have good social skills is very important in order to become a good citizen in Kindergarten.

The lessons in this unit are just the beginning. Continue to insist that the children use good manners, and the whole class will benefit.

Good manners help to teach cooperation and empathy. They also make everyone's day more pleasant and the teacher look good!!

### **Expected Outcomes for this unit:**

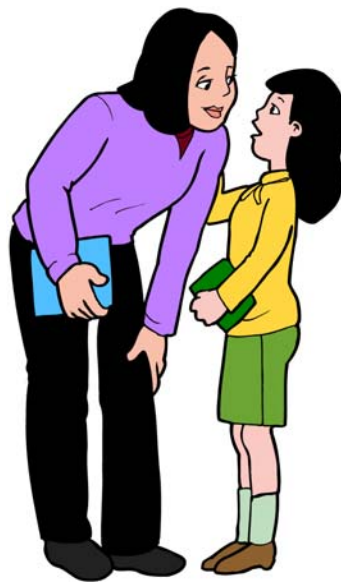
Learn the meanings of 'polite' and 'rude'.

Learn that it is polite to greet others and to look them in the eye.

Remember to say 'please' and 'thank you' when asking for something.

Learn that it is rude to interrupt others when they are speaking.

Learn when it is appropriate to say 'excuse me' and 'I'm sorry'.



# Lesson 10: Being Polite - Saying Hello

## Review:

Discuss listening well.

## Discussion:

Often children do not greet one another. Teaching them to do this is a great friendship boost. It raises self-esteem, especially for shy children - and it is a polite thing to do.

Often we see children walk by one another or an adult they know as if the other person didn't exist or was invisible. It may be shyness, or perhaps they have no idea of what to do. Talk about this with the children. What is the polite friendly thing to do when you pass someone you know? How does it make you feel if you meet someone from your class and they don't look at you or say anything? What could we do and say?

Talk about saying, "Hello" or "Hi", and then the person's name. Scatter half of the children around the room to certain spots, and the other half walk about, and as they pass one of the other children, they say, "Hi, \_\_\_\_\_!" and that person replies, "Hi, \_\_\_\_\_!" But there is more..... Look directly at the person and smile as you meet and greet. Make sure all children are included equally. The teacher should join in, too. Praise students who look directly at the person they are meeting and smile. Look them in the eye!

Talk about how this makes you feel. Why is greeting a friend this way polite? Would it be polite to just walk by?

Have the children say, "Hello, Ms. \_\_\_\_\_" as they come into the classroom, and you reply. Do the same as the children leave the classroom after school, saying, "Good-bye, \_\_\_\_\_" and they reply to you.



## Activity:

Go out to the playground. Put the students into two groups and have each group line up. Put 4 cones out at the four compass points of a large circle. Spread one line of children on the outside of the circle, facing outwards. Send the second group one at a time to go around the outside of the circle, greeting each person on the inner circle as they move around. Then the moving group stands still and the inner circle moves around.

Go outside to the playground at recess. Greet each student from your class that you meet. Praise eye contact and a smile, as well as the words. See if your kiddies will greet each other.

Read the poem about smiling on the next page. Make a larger copy for you to use, and memorize the words as you draw your hand under them.

## **Additional Activities:**

### **More concepts to discuss:**

Learn the names of the adults who work in the school, so they can be greeted, too.  
Learn to shake hands, too.

Learn these—Miss, Ms. Mrs. Mr.—and when they should be used.

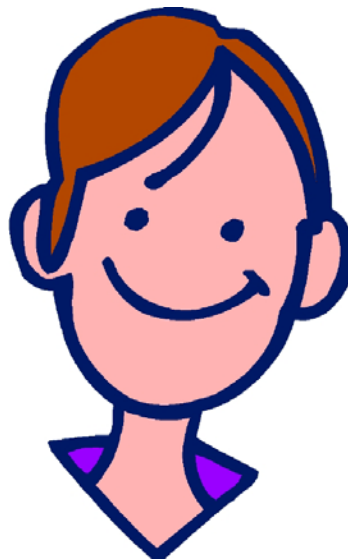
Talk about smiling, and what it does:

**You can never give a smile away  
No matter what you do.  
For every time you smile at me  
I'll give it back to you!**

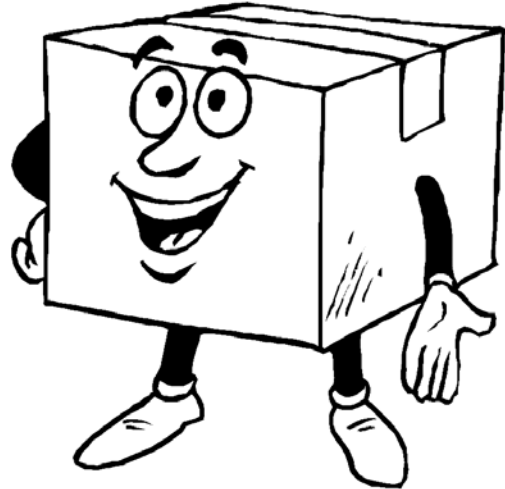
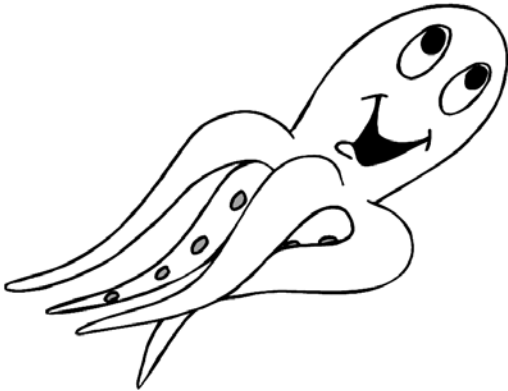
### **Verbal Vocabulary:**

Make sure all your students understand the words you are using—especially if you have children who are not fluent in English.

- Hello
- Meet
- Greet
- Miss, Ms. Mrs. Mr.
- Smile
- Eye contact







## Smiles

You can never give a smile away  
No matter what you do.  
For every time you smile at me  
I'll give it back to you!

Notes:

# Lesson 11: Being polite - please and thank you

## Review:

Discuss greeting others.

## Discussion:

Discuss the polite way of asking for something - using 'May I please.....?' and the 'Thank you' reply. Even better, say, "Thank you, \_\_\_\_\_!" using the person's name.

Have a bag of small wrapped candies, some stickers or other treat. Have each child ask for one politely and then say thank you.

Role play other situations. May I please go to the washroom? May I please have a drink? May I please borrow a crayon? Have the students think of something to ask you for - or they can ask a friend for something. You can put the children in pairs, and they can ask politely for an object from each other.

Even if a person asks politely, is the answer always going to be 'yes, you may'? Have the children think of times where the answer might be a 'no'. How can you say 'no' politely?

This lesson is, of course, on-going through the year.

## Activity:

Teach this poem/song:

### Good Manners

*(To: I'm a Little Teapot)*

I have good manners, yes, I do.

I can say "Please," and "Thank you," too.

When I'm with my friends and family, too,

I have good manners, yes, I do!



## Follow-Up Exercise:

After the students have memorized the poem, give out the poem sheet. Go over the words - trying to match the spoken words with the written ones.

Can the children find all the word 'I'? Can they find two words that are the same?

The children can then 'read' it to one another, colour the picture and take it home to 'read' to the family.

## Additional Activities:

### More concepts to discuss:

Role play classroom situations when children ask one another for something. Ask them for ideas, or role play these: asking for a crayon, if you want to play with me, if you want to sit beside me, asking to borrow scissors, taking turns, etc.

Praise students who use the polite words to you or a friend. You could give out awards: '\_\_\_\_\_ was caught using polite words!'

### Verbal Vocabulary:

Make sure all your students understand the words you are using—especially if you have children who are not fluent in English.

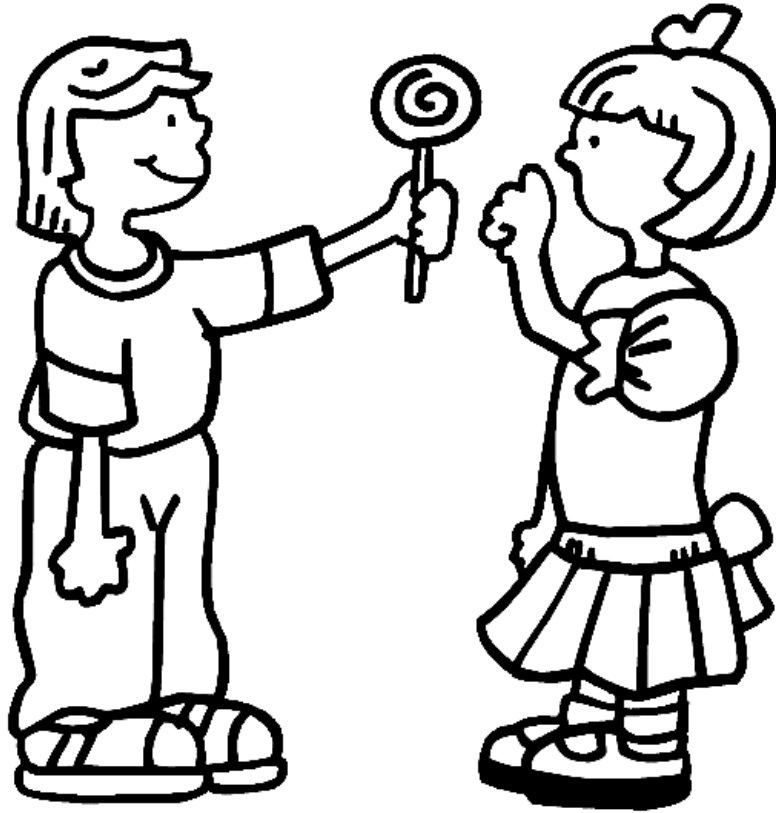
- Please
- Thank you
- Polite
- Rude
- May I?
- Manners

### Manners

We say "Thank you."  
We say, "Please,"  
And "excuse me,"  
When we sneeze.

That's the way  
We do what's right.  
We have manners.  
We're polite.





## Good Manners

I have good manners, yes, I do.

I can say "Please," and "Thank you," too.

When I'm with my friends and family, too,

I have good manners, yes, I do!

Notes:

# Lesson 12: Being polite - Not Interrupting

## Review:

Review please and thank you.

## Discussion:

Young children often interrupt adults who are having a conversation. Perhaps they do not realize that this is rude behaviour! It is sometimes simply a way to gain attention. It is also rude when children interrupt each other.

Teach the word 'interrupt'. You could discuss the meaning as 'breaking' or 'cutting' someone's talking. Take a long strip of crepe paper which you can unroll as you talk to the children. If someone interrupts, it is like tearing or breaking the strip.

Do a short sharing time, where some children get up and tell something interesting to the group. How can we be polite when someone is talking? Was the rest of the class polite? Did anyone interrupt?

Teach a hand signal to use when a child interrupts the teacher or a peer. You could simply hold your hand out parallel to the floor, fingers together to mean 'wait, don't interrupt' - or another signal that you choose.

Role play this..... Have two children talking together about a toy, and another go up to ask something. Have the student use the 'don't interrupt' signal. You can also role play lining up and have someone 'butt' into the line. How does this make you feel? Interrupting is 'butting' into someone's talking.

## Activity:

Teach the following poem. Have it printed on chart paper, and as you teach it, follow under the words as you say them. Why does the poem talk about a little mouse? What does 'through' mean?

Only one person can talk at a time,  
So this is what I will do:  
I'll listen like a little mouse  
Until the other person is through.



## Follow-Up Exercise:

Follow through on this lesson, using the hand signal to stop a child who is attempting to interrupt.

## **Additional Activities:**

### **More concepts to discuss:**

Discuss when interrupting is allowed. If someone is in danger or hurt, interruptions are acceptable or necessary. The words 'excuse me' can be taught to be used when it is necessary to interrupt. Talk about times when it might be important to interrupt, and role play how to do it politely.

This is an important reason why teachers ask children to raise their hands to ask a question or give an answer. If they don't wait, they are usually interrupting.

### **Good Friends**

We say, "Thank you."

We say, "Please."

We don't interrupt or tease.

We don't argue. We don't fuss.

We listen when friends talk to us.

We share our toys and take our turn.

Good manners aren't too hard to learn.

It's really easy to do what's right

We just remember to be polite!

Please let your classmates finish --

Whatever they begin!

Why be a silly little goat

Forever butting in?

### **Verbal Vocabulary:**

Make sure all your students understand the words you are using—especially if you have children who are not fluent in English.

- interrupt
- interruption
- Polite
- Talking
- Important
- polite







### I Won't Interrupt

Only one person can talk at a time,  
So this is what I will do:  
I'll listen like a little mouse  
Until the other person is through.

Notes:

# Lesson 13: Being polite - Saying Excuse Me

## Review:

Review interrupting and what it means.

## Discussion:

Today we are going to talk about another polite thing to say, 'Excuse me'. Ask the children if they know when we say this. They may know to use it if they burp!

You say 'excuse me' when you do something that may be unpleasant to someone else, but you can't help it! Sometimes we can't help burping, sneezing, bumping into another person or if it is really important, we may have to interrupt. Of course, if you can avoid doing the unpleasant thing, you do - but sometimes it isn't possible.

Role play by lining up the class. A child must get to the other side of the line. How can he/she do it? The child could go around the end of the line, or if this is not possible, go through the line by saying, "Excuse me, \_\_\_\_\_". Brainstorm times you might be in someone else's way - in class, on the playground, in the gym, etc.

Talk about the times it is permissible to interrupt. If the teacher or another person is talking - when might it be acceptable to interrupt? Perhaps you feel sick, have a bleeding finger, someone else is hurt or in trouble—then it is important to interrupt. But there is a polite way to do it..... By saying, "Excuse me, Ms. \_\_\_\_\_, Katie is hurt." Make sure the students clearly understand that saying excuse me does not make unimportant interruptions OK....

## Activity:

Teach the following poem. You can enlarge the poem page and use it for a chart to teach the words. After the children have it memorized, see if a child can follow the words on the chart with a pointer as they are said by the rest of the children.

We say "Thank you."  
We say, "Please,"  
And "Excuse me,"  
When we sneeze.

That's the way  
We do what's right.  
We have manners.  
We're polite.



## Follow-Up Exercise:

Go out to the playground equipment. Talk to the children about saying 'excuse me' and role play occasions when it is used suitably. Then let the children play and watch to see if they can use the words appropriately when they are playing.

## Additional Activities:

### More concepts to discuss:

Practice all the good manners. Praise children who use good manners with each other.

One time we must never touch one another is on the monkey bars or any other climbing place. Care must be taken to avoid this, as the other person may lose their balance and fall. Children climbing without interference are most often perfectly safe, as most kids won't go to the point where they feel insecure. But the touch of interference of another person can be very dangerous. An 'excuse me' is not good enough in that situation! It must never happen.

### Verbal Vocabulary:

Make sure all your students understand the words you are using—especially if you have children who are not fluent in English.

- Polite
- Excuse me
- Polite
- manners
- Interruption
- Interrupt



## Good Manners

We say "Thank you."

We say, "Please,"

And "Excuse me,"

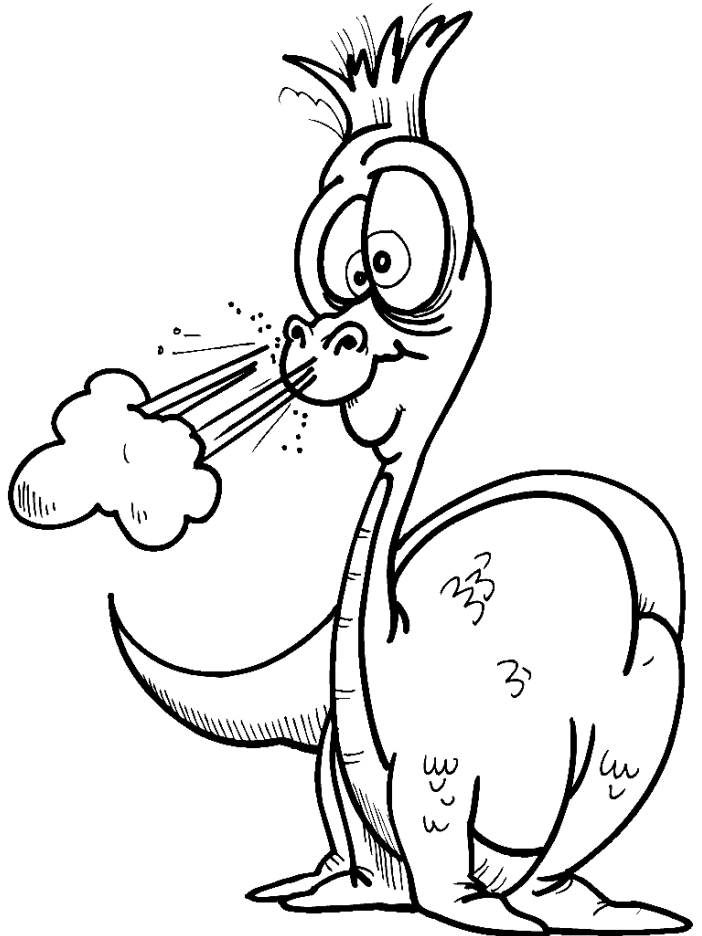
When we sneeze.

That's the way

We do what's right.

We have manners.

We're polite.



Notes: