



Respects School Environment and Materials

What does “Respects School Environment and Materials” mean?

This skill relates to how a child treats spaces and things at school. The school environment includes all school spaces like classrooms, the lunchroom, the gym, the bathrooms, and the playground. School materials include all school supplies such as tables, chairs, books, puzzles, and art supplies. Everyone at school shares these spaces and things. Respecting the school environment and materials means taking care of spaces and things so that others can also use them. For example, a child shows respect for the school environment and materials by using classroom books gently so they don't tear out any pages and by throwing garbage away in the trashcan. This skill shows that children are learning to treat shared spaces and things with care and are considerate of others.

TIPS for FAMILIES

How can I explain this skill to my child?

You can explain this skill to your child by talking about sharing spaces and things so that we all can use them. For example, ask your child to imagine how they would feel if they shared their favorite toy with a friend and their threw their favorite toy across the room and broke it. They would probably feel sad or angry with their friend because they didn't treat their toy with care and now the toy can't be played with anymore. Let your child know that respecting shared spaces and things means treating them the same way you would want your friends to treat your favorite toy. You want to use spaces and things in a way that lets other people use them too. When we respect shared spaces and things, we all get to enjoy them!

What are some things I can do to help my child learn this skill?

TIP1

Model R-E-S-P-E-C-T. You can help children understand what respect looks like by talking about and modeling examples of people respecting or not respecting places and things at home. Some ideas for scenarios that you can talk about and act out are listed below. Once you give your child a scenario and act it out, ask them, “Is this person taking good care of this place/thing?” Wait for your child to respond.

- If the answer is yes, discuss how the person in the scenario is taking good care of the place/thing.

- If the answer is no, discuss how the person is disrespecting the place/thing. Then discuss what the person could do to fix the situation and be respectful.

EXAMPLE SCENARIOS

Emma is playing with toys in the living room and leaves them on the floor when she is done.

Ramon finishes his lunch and then wipes up the crumbs on the table with a napkin.

Alma spills a glass of milk in the kitchen and leaves it there.

Theo borrows his sister's book and doesn't draw in any of the pages.

Remember that this skill can take time for children to learn. Modeling how to treat shared spaces and things frequently to remind your child what respect looks like.

TIP2

Use simple organization. One way that your child can show respect for things is by putting them back where they belong after they use them. Help your child find a specific place to put different things, like books and toys. Include your child in the process of figuring out where to store things so that they feel responsible for their belongings. You can also make labels like the ones below to help your child remember where things go. Labels with words and pictures can help your child remember where everything belongs (and encourages early reading skills). By helping your child find a place for everything and encouraging them to return things to their place when they are done using them, you help them learn how to treat spaces and things with respect.

PUZZLES



BLOCKS



TIP3

Talk it out. You can show your child by talking them through how you take care of things in your daily life. For example, when you get home and are taking off your coat and shoes, you can say things like, “First I am going to hang up my coat so it doesn’t get dirty. Then I am going to take off my shoes and put them away so they are easy to find and no one else will trip on them!” By showing your child how you take care of things in your life, you help them build this skill for themselves.

How can I encourage my child when I see them trying to learn this skill?

Acknowledge your child for their efforts! For example, tell your child, “Samaya, I think it’s great that you are putting all the art supplies back where they belong.” or “I love how hard you are working to clean up the mess you made, Marcus!”

To learn more about the tips and where they came from, please visit our references page: ckphilly.org/citations