Respect: Working on Clean Language

Let's begin today’s lesson by reviewing several things you learned at the beginning of the year.

- What is your classroom definition of respect?
- Respect is one of our school expectations. Give several examples of how a student can demonstrate respect while at school.
- What is CRUD?
- How is normal conflict different from bullying?

Okay, okay, okay. You know enough about respect. But….

ARE YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS DEMONSTRATING WHAT YOU KNOW

Hopefully, you were able to answer “yes” to the above question. Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in office referrals due to inappropriate language. So, not everyone understands how to keep their language clean in the building.

BABY HUEY

Baby Huey is learning how to speak, so he imitates what he hears around him. His older brother and his friends use inappropriate language when they are around the baby. The baby begins to repeat several of these words. Baby Huey’s mother tells the baby to stop, but the baby continues to repeat the words. The older children laugh when Huey uses the words. Baby Huey starts saying the words over and over in church. People stare in disbelief at the mother.

Think about it…

- Does Baby Huey understand the meaning of the words?
- Why do you think Baby Huey repeats these words even after his mother tells him to stop?

BIG BOY HUGO

Baby Huey is now Big Boy Hugo in the eighth grade. He knows more inappropriate expressions and words than the average human being. He continues to use inappropriate language. However, he uses it in a different context. He may use it when he is hanging out with his friends, but he has learned that there are certain situations in which it is unacceptable. Big Boy Hugo understands that certain settings are not accepting of inappropriate language. Although it is not always easy for Hugo, he makes adjustments to his language according to the social situation.

Think about it…

- Does Big Boy Hugo understand the meaning of his words?
- Why is it important for people to think about the social situation when using language?
TABOO LANGUAGE

**What is “taboo language”?**

Taboo language means verbal expressions that are unacceptable or not allowed in a specific environment. Examples include: curse words, derogatory slang words, negative references to family members, racist comments, sexist language and threatening, demeaning comments.

**Where would these expressions be considered “taboo”?**

Most formal groups, such as school, church, or the workplace do not accept this type of language. Although some families and many social groups find it acceptable, it is still considered inappropriate at school.

**It doesn’t bother me when I hear it. Why isn’t it appropriate?**

It can be offensive, hurtful and degrading to other people who hear it. Many confrontations begin because of the use of taboo language. It often reinforces negative stereotypes and prejudices.

**It’s so hard for me to not say these words at school! What can I do to stop myself?**

- Some people can use a STOP and THINK Plan. It’s very easy…Before you say an inappropriate word, STOP and THINK about the consequences of using the word.
- Some people have been using these words so often that they just roll off their tongue naturally. Other people may be slightly impulsive and say the words without thinking about the consequence. A strategy for them could be to find a substitute or alternative word to use that would not be inappropriate or get you into trouble. Remember…It’s not the words that are the real problem. It is the PLACE and SITUATION in which you use the words.

**Let’s Practice**

- Suppose you stubbed your toe in the cafeteria and normally would say a curse word. What are some words you can use instead?
- Create a kinder, gentler way to word the following….
  - “You are a no-good, lousy jerk!”
  - “My ----------- teacher just gave us a detention!”

**Mr. Tab OOOOO**

**Mr. Smart Mouth**

**Your Challenge**

Become aware of the words you choose and the context in which you are using the language. Ask yourself:

- Is the language appropriate for the situation?
- Could it be considered offensive?
- Could there be negative consequences if I use the word?
- Is there a substitute word I could use instead?
- Do my words demonstrate that I understand the school expectation of respect?