



You Can Be a
Cool Kind Kid

It's "Cool" to Live The Golden Rule

By Barbara Gilmour

Hello, again! Tanner, Truman the Dragon and their friends are learning more about being a "Cool Kind Kid." The kids thought meeting Truman and having a dragon for a friend was very cool. Truman told them that he likes having kids for friends. He said he was excited to learn how to be "cool" and "kind." He tries to be kind most of the time, but sometimes it's hard.

Do you try your best to be kind, too? Truman, Tanner and the other kids all agreed that being kind wasn't always easy. Some kids laughed at them when they were nice. Other kids called them names and hurt their feelings.

Do kids tease you when you try to be kind? They have it all backwards! "Kind" is the "cool" way to be. Are there kids at your school who think hurting someone's feelings is okay? How uncool! Do kids in your neighborhood have fun picking on others, especially little kids? That makes them look "little." Are kids bullying on your bus? They have no idea how far from cool they look.

Last time, we talked about manners and how they can help us learn to be "Cool Kind Kids." Manners teach us how to treat other people. They show us how to be "kind" and "cool." They help us have more friends. You'll remember that we also talked about The Golden Rule and said it was the basis for good manners. What have you heard about The Golden Rule in school or at home? Many people in the world think it's an important rule to live by. It says, "Treat others the way you want to be treated."

What if a friend punches you in the arm, and you punch him back? Is that The Golden Rule? Or, is that "Treat others the way they treat you"? See the difference?

Tanner, Truman and the other kids are going to create some role-plays or skits to show the difference. Their first set of role-plays will show kids treating their friends the same way the friends have treated them — "he did it to me, so I can do it to him!" In these role-plays, kids are mean and hurtful. Then they'll create a second set of role-plays showing the same situation but with people acting out The Golden Rule — "Treat others the way you want to be treated."

You can write role-plays just like theirs. Maybe your parents, brothers, sisters, or some friends will want to help you. When you're writing your role-play, ask yourself, "How do I want to be treated? Do I want to be teased, picked on or bullied? Or, do I want to be treated with kindness and respect?" Kids who think The Golden Rule is a cool rule are learning how to be "kind" and "cool."

Send in your Golden Rule role-plays to write@kidsvillenews.com. You could win a "Cool Kind Kid" CD, see your role-play printed in Kidsville News! and get some cool gifts from Truman. Be sure to include your name, age and address and your parents' permission.

Barbara Gilmour, Tanner's grandmom, is the creator and developer of the Tanner's Manners: Be a "Cool Kind Kid" Social Skills, Character Values and Anti-Bullying Elementary School Curriculum; the "Cool Kind Kid" Camp Kits and the award-winning "Cool Kind Kid" Audio CD. Along with co-authors Dr. Sydelle Mason and Dr. Wendy McDermott, the "Cool Kind Kid" team is committed to helping kids reject bullying and violence by offering them the social-skills tools they need to redefine "cool." © Cool Kind Kid 866-KID-KIND www.CoolKindKid.com