



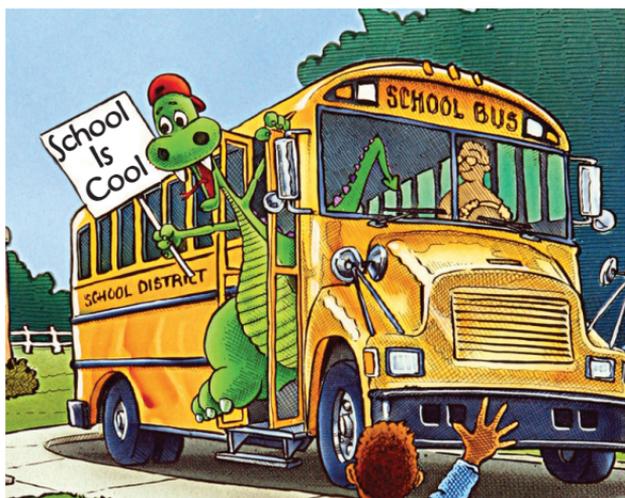
## School Can Be Cool!

By Barbara Gilmour

Tanner, Truman the Dragon and the other kids are all back in school now.

They've been talking about all the fun things they did this summer. What are some things you did this summer?

The last time we got together, we talked about all the places that manners matter.



All the kids said "school" was a biggie. Tanner said, "I figured out that I spend more time in school than anywhere else when I'm awake. So manners matter a lot at school."

Someone asked, "Can school be 'cool'?" Tanner said, "Not my school. Kids are mean there." Rudy said, "Some kids think being rude is cool." Nicole said, "I don't like it when kids tease or gossip about someone. That isn't cool." They all said they didn't

see good manners too much at school.

Then we talked about what can make a school "cool." Truman said, "More dragon-sized playground equipment." Everyone laughed and wondered how many dragons go to school. Carmen said, "I think school should be a friendly place." All the kids agreed. Nicole added, "Where everyone fits in and no one is left out?" Everyone clapped for that one. Courtney said, "I think when everyone is polite and kind, school will be cool." Good one.

"How about safe?" Tanner asked. "I know kids who are afraid to go to school because of bullies." That's a problem in a lot of schools. School should be a place where everyone feels comfortable going each day. Sometimes it's hard to know what to do about bullies. Courtney said, "When I see someone getting bullied, I want to help them, but I feel like a tattletale if I tell the teacher." Lots of kids feel like that. They need to understand that when someone might get hurt, or is being hurt, getting help is not tattling. Telling a teacher, counselor, principal, coach or other adult about someone being bullied or someone who is bullying is the right thing to do. You could be saving someone from getting seriously hurt. "Cool Kind Kids" know that bullying isn't cool. A "Cool Kind Kid" takes a stand against bullying. By doing that, you gain the respect of your teachers and classmates, and you help create a safe, cool school.

Tanner said, "School will be cool when everyone is practicing The Golden Rule." Everyone agreed. Treating people with kindness, caring and respect, just like you want to be treated, can help school be a comfortable, friendly, safe place for learning.

Showing respect at school means respecting the people who work there, the students who attend and the school property, like books and sliding boards.

What do you think? See how many people you can think of at school that should be shown respect. Then make a list of all the places at school where people should show respect. Since you're a "Cool Kind Kid," you know that manners matter at school!

Don't miss the "Cool Kind Kid" activity on the puzzle page.

Barbara Gilmour, Tanner's grandmother, is the creator and developer of the Tanner's Manners: Be a "Cool Kind Kid" Social Skills, Character Values and Anti-Bullying educational materials and the award-winning "Cool Kind Kid" Audio CD. She also writes the Children's Manners Blog, offering tips for teaching your children manners. <http://childrenmanners.blogspot.com>. The "Cool Kind Kid" team is committed to helping kids reject bullying by offering them the social skills tools they need to redefine "cool." ©Cool Kind Kid 866-KID-KIND.