



Cool, Kind Neighbors

By Barbara Gilmour

What a great idea Buddy had last time for beating the bullies on the bus. “How many of you want to be ‘Bus Bully Busters’?”

Truman the dragon raised his hand and said, “The kids on the bus aren’t afraid of me anymore. Now I protect them from the bullies.” All the kids added their stories about being “Bus Bully Busters.”

Now let’s talk about another place where you can be Cool Kind Kids. We all live in a neighborhood, so what do you think Cool, Kind Kids should do to be good neighbors?

Tanner started by saying, “Let’s ask Nicole. Everyone in our neighborhood calls her ‘Nice Neighbor Nicole.’”

“Tanner, why did you say that?” Nicole said.

“Because it’s true. You are always doing nice things for other people.”

Rudy added, “Don’t be embarrassed, Nicole, we want to hear how you are kind and cool to your neighbors.”

Nicole started, “Okay, but what I do in my neighborhood is just what we all should do everywhere. I try to be kind and friendly. I greet them when I see them. I help when I can. And, I try my best to practice The Golden Rule.”

“That sounds easy. There are a lot of pets in my neighborhood. What about them?” asked Carmen. “I know,” yelled Truman. “Always clean up after your pet. ‘Obey ‘pooper scooper’ laws!’”

Nicole added, “You can also offer to walk a neighbor’s pet if they are elderly or away.” “Cool idea,” said Rudy.

What else can you do to help a neighbor? Truman said, “I pick up my neighbors’ mail and newspapers when they are away.”

“We have some elderly neighbors, so I take out their trash and then return their trashcans,” added Tanner.

“Yeah, and we should keep our own trash picked up, too,” said Rudy. “My mom took dinner to a neighbor who was sick last week,” shared Carmen. Nicole was excited. “You guys are already doing some cool, kind things in your neighborhoods.”

“I like to play outside, but my dad says we should be respectful of our neighbors. So we don’t play outside or be noisy when they might be sleeping,” offered Tanner.

“Being respectful of their property is important, too,” added Nicole. “We shouldn’t stomp on their flowers, play on their grass or cut through their yards.” Rudy jumped up. “And, don’t throw baseballs at their windows!” Everyone laughed, but we know that isn’t cool.

“My mom does a cool thing for a new family in the neighborhood,” said Nicole. “She takes a cake or other treat to them.” “That’s a great idea,” shared Carmen. “We have moved a lot, so it’s nice when the neighbors are friendly to the new people.”

Truman added, “My family is different from the other neighbors, but everyone accepts us, so that is cool. It helps us all get along. Sometimes new kids are afraid of a dragon. But, when I help them find their way to school and meet new friends, they know I’m kind and cool.”

Barbara Gilmour, Tanner’s grandma, 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://childrensmanners.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. www.CoolKindKid.com.

