



Your Cool, Kind Community

By Barbara Gilmour

“Welcome back, everyone. Nicole, thank you for sharing some of the things you do to be a Cool, Kind Neighbor. You all had great ideas about how to be good neighbors. Today Tanner and Nicole’s cousin Courtney are visiting with us.”

Stephen, Rudy, Carmen and Truman the dragon all greeted her.

“We’ll be talking about how to be cool and kind in your community.

Who remembers what a neighborhood is?”

Tanner said, “A neighborhood is the area where you live.”

“That’s right. What is a community?”

Rudy raised his hand, “Where people live, play and work. It can be many neighborhoods put together, like a town or a city.”

Truman was excited to tell everyone, “Some of my family live in a dragon community, where only dragons live.”

“That’s so cool,” said Nicole. Courtney added, “The people who live there are called citizens, even if they are dragons.” The kids all laughed.

Tanner asked Courtney, “What do you do in your community to be cool and kind?” Courtney replied, “I try to be kind by looking for needs in my community and responding to them.” Rudy asked, “What kind of needs?” Courtney

answered, “We share many places, like parks, playgrounds, movie theatres and schools.” “Wow!” said Tanner. “I never thought about the places we all use.” Courtney continued, “If we remember The Golden Rule, we’ll be able to treat the places and the people who use them with respect.” Truman said, “You mean, like not throwing trash in the park or writing on school walls? That’s not cool!” Courtney added, “You got it, Truman.”

“Our community has fun activities like parades that I like to go to,” shared Tanner. The kids marched around the room singing that parades are fun. Nicole added, “When we go to events, my mom always tells us to obey the rules and respect the police or others in charge. She says the rules are for our safety.”

Your safety is important. What are some other community needs? Rudy’s hand shot up, “Respect our environment so there are resources like clean water for future kids!” Stephen added, “We should recycle at home, at school and wherever we go.”

Carmen asked, “What other kinds of things can we do for our community?” Tanner thought a minute and said, “Volunteer at a homeless shelter.” Rudy added, “Raise money for a charity. A lemonade stand is fun.” Truman shared, “Collecting for a food or toy drive is cool. Even dragons can help.” Courtney added, “Visit a nursing home. They need visitors and really like to see kids.” “I love to read,” said Stephen, “So I sometimes read to younger kids at the library.”

“That’s very cool and kind, Stephen,” said Nicole.

“I think a cool, kind citizen should be a leader and good example in the community,” said Tanner. “I agree,” said Truman. “When I see kids breaking things on the playground or littering, I tell them to stop and be ‘Cool Kind Kids.’ It helps that I’m a big dragon.”

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.

