



Going Out! Be Cool & Kind in Public

By Barbara Gilmour

“Hi again, everyone. I’m glad to see Tanner, Nicole, Rudy, Carmen, Stephen and Truman the dragon here today. Have you been practicing some of the cool, kind tips we learned from Nice Neighbor Nicole and Caring Citizen Courtney?”

Tanner’s hand shot up. “I’ve been helping my elderly neighbors. They think it’s cool that a kid wants to help them.”

Carmen added, “I’m trying to be cool and kind by living ‘The Golden Rule.’”

Rudy said, “Just being polite and kind to everyone is cool.”

Where are some places that you go in your community? Tanner said, “I like to go to the movies with my friends.” Nicole said, “I like to go shopping at the mall.”

Carmen added, “Me, too! I like to shop with my mom.”

Rudy shared, “Sometimes I go to the museum with my family. I like the one with the dinosaurs.”

Truman asked Rudy, “Do they have dragons there, too?” All the kids laughed.

Stephen asked Truman, “Where do dragons like to go?” Truman stood up to his full height and said, “Wherever we want to go!” The kids all pretended they were scared.

“You have all shared some fun places to go. How do the kids you know act when in those places?”

Rudy said, “I see kids picking on others, bullying and not being nice.”

Carmen added, “They yell and scream in the movies.” Stephen shared, “Some act wild, and that can be scary.”

Tanner added, “We don’t always know what is the right way to act. It’s confusing because we can yell and run around in the park, but not in the library. We can throw a ball at the ball field, but not in the movies. How do we know how a ‘Cool Kind Kid’ should act when out?”

“Okay, let’s see what you think would be good ways to be cool and kind when out in public.”

Rudy couldn’t wait. “I know what should be first — no teasing, staring, bullying or trying to get someone else in trouble.”

“Good one, Rudy,” said Tanner. “I want to add, no running, yelling, pushing or shoving.”

Nicole added, “What about no complaining? That isn’t cool.”

Stephen said, “Sometimes we need to be patient and polite, like when waiting in line.”

Truman was anxious to tell us, “No fighting! Kids listen to me because I’m so big, so I help them learn that fighting isn’t cool.”

“Who knows what ‘After you’ means?”

“I know,” said Stephen. “‘After you’ means giving your friend a cookie before you take one.”

“That’s right. How does ‘After you’ work when out?”

“Letting your friend go ahead of you in the movie line or at the water fountain,” shared Tanner.

Rudy added, “It’s letting smaller kids stand in front of you to see the dinosaurs at the museum.”

Nicole continued, “‘After you’ is about thinking of someone else first, before yourself.” All these are ways to be “Cool Kind Kids” who live ‘The Golden Rule.’

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://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. www.CoolKindKid.com.