

## Playtime, Playgrounds and Pranks

By Barbara Gilmour

Ms. Gilmour greeted everyone with, “Hello, it’s nice to see all of you again.” Tanner, Rudy, Nicole, Carmen, Stephen and Truman the dragon all responded with their hellos and greetings to her and to each other. They have all become good friends since they have been meeting to learn how to be “Cool Kind Kids.”

Ms. Gilmour then asked, “Are you having fun this summer?” All hands went up. Rudy was excited to share, “I went to camp and had a lot of fun.” Nicole said, “I went to visit my Pop-pop and Mom-mom and did a lot of fun things.” Stephen added, “My family stayed home, and we built a cool fort in our back yard.” Tanner looked at Stephen and said, “A fort really does sound cool.”

“What are some of the fun things you like to do when you are playing with friends?” asked Ms. Gilmour.

Rudy spoke up, “I like to play outside with my friends in the summer. We play ball or just hang out.”

Truman couldn’t wait to add, “I have a really cool playground near my house, and I spend a lot of time there. They even have some dragon-size things to play on.”

Nicole said, “I like to play outside too, but sometimes my friends can’t decide what to do, and we end up fighting.” “Boy that can be a problem. Sometimes it isn’t fun when kids can’t take turns and share,” Stephen added. Truman spoke up and said, “I even see kids playing pranks and tricks on other kids. I’m afraid that someone could get hurt.”

Ms. Gilmour then asked, “What are some ways that ‘Cool Kind Kids’ can help other kids get along better at playtime and on the playground?” All the kids had ideas to share. Tanner was first to say, “If everyone lived The Golden Rule, we could all get along.” They all said, “Good one, Tanner!” Rudy added, “If I know of a prank that I don’t want done to me, I won’t do it to someone else.”

Nicole asked, “Why can’t kids just share? It isn’t hard to do, and that way everyone gets to play.”

Carmen added, “I don’t know why kids have a hard time taking turns. I remember when we learned about ‘after you.’ I think that is cool because we each get a turn, and we show others we care about them.”

Tanner and Stephen both had the same idea, “Let’s use the ‘Cool Kind Kid’ Challenge here. Let’s challenge kids to be cool and kind. Let’s take turns and share when playing games, on the playground or wherever we are having summer fun.”

Rudy added, “Let’s challenge the bullies on the playground by being tough with them, and kind to the kids they are bullying.”

“We can end the pranks by challenging kids to see that it isn’t ‘cool’ to pick on, tease or hurt others,” said Carmen. Everyone agreed the “Cool Kind Kid” Challenge would help kids get along better when playing together.

