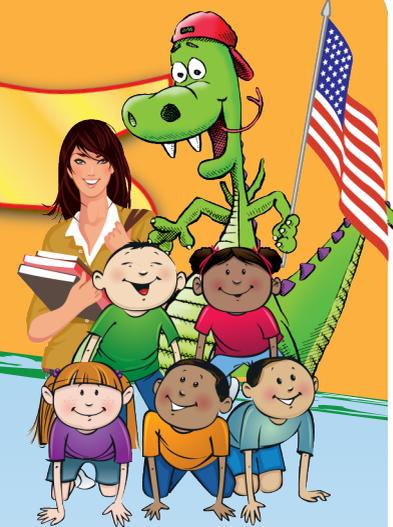


Fairness: A Very Valuable Value

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Ms. Gilmour greeted Tanner, Nicole, Rudy, Carmen, Stephen and Truman the dragon waving a flag. She handed each of them a small flag as she said “hello” to everyone. The kids all said “thank you” in return.

“What national holiday do we celebrate in June?” asked Ms. Gilmour.

All hands went up, each holding their flags. Everyone cheered, “Flag Day.”

“You’re correct. We’ll come back and talk more about Flag Day a little later,” she added. “But first,” she continued, “let’s talk about values again. You knew a lot about those last time we met. Who remembers what we said values were?”

Rudy was first to respond. “Values are things our families think are important.”

Nicole added, “They are ideas or beliefs.” Rudy and Nicole high-fived each other.

“Today, let’s talk about fairness, or being fair,” said Ms. Gilmour. “Who can think of places where fairness is important?”

Truman spoke up. “When playing sports, because some kids try to cheat.”

Carmen added, “When doing a school project. It’s not fair if some don’t do their share.”

Rudy thought a minute and said, “Chores at home need to be fair. Sometimes my older brothers try to get me to do their chores.”

Everyone yelled, “That’s not fair!”

Ms. Gilmour asked, “What happens in sports when some kids won’t play fair?”

Carmen said, “It’s no fun.”

Rudy added, “You can be called a poor sport.”

“Nobody wants to be that! Kids won’t want to play with you or want you on the team,” said Tanner.

Truman added, “I’ve seen kids try to change the rules so they win.”

Stephen said, “Some kids blame others when they miss a hit, or don’t score.”

“How would you suggest kids play fair in sports?” asked Ms. Gilmour.

Nicole had her hand up first. “Everyone should learn the rules and obey them.”

Rudy added, “If you miss, don’t blame someone else.”

Carmen shared, “If playing at home, whoever chooses the game lets someone else go first. Everyone should agree to the rules.” The kids all agreed.

“Rudy had a problem with fairness at home. What would you suggest to him?” asked Ms. Gilmour.

“Ask for a family meeting. Then each person can tell his or her side,” shared Tanner.

Truman added, “We do that at my house. In that way, everyone knows the family rules.”

Nicole said, “In my family, we take turns and solve our problems by talking.”

“Now let’s go back to Flag Day,” said Ms. Gilmour.

“How does Flag Day symbolize fairness in our country?”

Truman jumped up and waved his flag, “Everyone is welcome here, even dragons.”

“Everyone can be whatever religion they want,” added Nicole.

Stephen shared, “Everyone can work and provide for their family.”

Carmen was next with, “You can go wherever you want.”

“I think fairness can also mean freedom. Each of you has the freedom to be whatever you want,” continued Ms. Gilmour. “Let’s challenge ourselves to always be fair. Let’s challenge friends to be fair in sports, in school and at home.”

For more insight into fairness visit:

www.ncpc.org/topics/bullying

www.dosomething.org/tipsandtools/11-facts-about-school-bullying

Barbara Gilmour, Tanner’s grandmother, is the creator and developer of the “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 and social skills. www.CoolKindKid.com.

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