

Be a "Cool Kind Kid" Challenger™ Everywhere

When Tanner, Nicole, Truman the Dragon, Rudy, Carmen and Stephen came into class, they were all waving signs saying "Be a Cool Kind Kid Challenger." Ms. Gilmour laughed as she greeted them.

"Where did you get the signs?" she asked. Everyone started talking at once. She raised her hand and pointed to Tanner, saying, "Tanner, you tell me first."

Tanner began, "After the last class, we decided that it would be fun to get the Challenge started by making these signs."

Nicole jumped in, "We each wanted to create our own sign and show how and where we could be Challengers."

Rudy was anxious to share about his sign. "I wanted mine to show how some kids are rude, like I can be at times, but that Cool Kind Kid Challengers can be kind instead." The kids applauded Rudy.

Carmen was next to share. "My sign is about being a Cool Kind Kid Challenger at home."

"Yes," they all said.

Stephen's sign had a school on it. He

said, "We spend a lot of time in school, so kids should be Cool Kind Kid Challengers there, too." The others agreed.

Ms. Gilmour looked around at all the signs and said, "They are all different. They look great." Truman the Dragon had kept his sign under his chair and had been quiet. She looked at him and asked him to show everyone his sign. "Wow," was the response.

Truman's sign showed a dragon with a house, a school, a sports field, a mall and a neighborhood. The kids asked him why he drew so many places. He replied, "Dragons are different, and we aren't always accepted. I wanted to show all the places where we should accept everyone. That's what Cool Kind Kid Challengers do."

All the kids reached up and high-fived Truman.

Ms. Gilmour looked at all the kids. "Did you enjoy making the signs?" she asked.

They all said, "YES!"

She continued, "Do you think other kids would like that, too?" Everyone agreed

that most kids like art projects. She then added, "When I look at Truman's sign, I see that there are a lot of places where kids go. We can help kids learn how to be Cool Kind Kid Challengers in each place, like home or school. I'm sure that we can think of enough challenges for each of the places Truman showed us, to focus on one place each week we meet. We'll create new signs here, and then you can get your schools to hang your signs as reminders to be Cool Kind Kid Challengers. Get your schools to join us. What do you think about that idea?"

They all agreed. Ms. Gilmour then asked, "Which place on Truman's sign do you want to do first?"

"School," was the winner.

"Okay," replied Ms. Gilmour, "I'm sure you all have some art supplies, so bring them next time. I'll get the paper. Bring your ideas for how to be Cool Kind Kid Challengers at school."



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.