

Teach These Children

Fivefold enrichment



Small Talk

Part of developing social skills is the ability to engage others in “small talk”. Casual conversation is becoming increasingly difficult for our children who are growing up in a world driven by artificial intelligence. As parents, it’s important that we teach our children how to appropriately engage with those around us. Make this a regular part of lessons with younger children.

Activity

Does your child know how to approach another child and introduce themselves with comfortability and confidence? Crowded playgrounds and parks are excellent places to practice these skills. Before heading to the park, talk to your child about the ways in which he/she can introduce themselves. Sometimes it’s okay to jump right in and say, “hey, can I play too”, and other times it’s more appropriate to lead with, “hi, my name is ___.” Use roll play to practice. Help them to prepare difficult interactions as well. What should they say or do when a child isn’t as kind or welcoming? Often times the way we treat others is how we see ourselves. You might explain that people have different reactions when they are nervous and that another’s reaction to us is not a true reflection of who we are. If a difficult situation arises, use the car ride home to teach empathy. Ask your child what might the other child have been feeling about themselves that made them act in an unkind .manner.

TIPS

Children can be mean and watching your child be rejected by other children at the playground can make any parent’s blood boil... but just remember, your reaction is their guiding light- you are their model. Help them to shake the dust off and move on just. There are plenty of other friends to make.



Child’s belief about self...

I am grounded

Family supports development of...

Wellness

Focus area:

Social, emotional & spiritual development.

GOAL

Practice helping your child develop conversation skills and small talk.

LEVEL

1