

Longfellow Home Cool Tool

Asking permission

Expectation: Be Respectful, Be Safe

Purpose of the lesson? Why it is important:

1. To teach children that asking permission is respectful and allows caretakers to be aware of what children are doing.
2. A caretaker feels that a child is safe when he/she has been given permission to do something.

Teaching Examples: *The following presents situations that your child might find himself in. Use these examples to discuss with your child how to make good decisions about asking permission.*

- Your child is outside the house playing with a friend. The friend asks your child to come into his house to play a game. Your child loves that game and says yes right away. Your child starts to walk toward the friend's house without asking permission. Ask your child to predict what could happen if permission is not asked. What feelings will you, your child, the friend, and the friend's caretaker have? Tell your child what consequences would take place if permission was not asked.
- Your child comes home from school and has a headache. You are home but your child can see that you are on the phone. Your child goes into the bathroom and takes out a bottle of aspirins. He puts two in his hand and reaches for a glass of water. Ask your child if he/she thinks the aspirins should be taken without permission. Discuss why it is important to ask before taking any medications. Talk about what your child could do instead of deciding on his own (ex. politely interrupt, wait until you are off of the phone, write a note).
- Your child is at a friends house playing and knows to be home at 5:00. They are very involved in something and it is near 5:00. Your child's friend asks her if she can stay just a little bit longer. Your child says yes without calling and asking permission. Ask your child if he/she thinks that a good decision was made. Ask what possible consequences could have come from not asking permission (ex. not allowed to play at a friends house for a while, having your parent not trust you, worrying others, etc.).

Kid Activities/Role Plays:

1. Make a list with your child of what types of things require asking permission to do or to have.
2. Discuss and decide with your child what types of situations warrant disturbing you if you are busy.
3. Talk about consequences that will occur if permission is not asked.

Follow-up/Reinforcement Activities:

1. Verbally praise your child when he/she asks for permission at appropriate times.

