

Teaching Social Skills and Creating Successful Students by Accepting “No”

SKILL TO TEACH	Accepting ‘No’ for an Answer <i>This lesson has several parts to it and can be split up into four or five lessons, if desired.</i>
AGE	Elementary
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will learn the steps of Accepting “No” for an Answer. Students will generate situations in which they received a ‘no’ answer and evaluate the way they handled the situation. Students will practice the skill of Accepting “No” for an Answer.
MATERIALS NEEDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills poster or skill steps written on board Book: <i>I Just Don’t Like the Sound of No!</i> by Julia Cook (available from boystownpress.org) Large space to play “Mother, May I?” Decorated bulletin board and stars out of thick paper (optional)
DISCUSSION	<p>Introduce the Skill of Accepting “No” for an Answer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask students if they’ve ever been told ‘no’. When students respond, ask them what they did when they were told ‘no’ and ask how that turned out. Guide the conversation towards evaluating effective and less-effective ways to respond to the answer ‘no’. <p>Teach/review the skill of Accepting “No” for an Answer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at the person Say ‘Okay’. Stay calm. If you disagree, ask later. <p>Read the book <i>I Just Don’t Like the Sound of No!</i> by Julia Cook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss what RJ, in the story, learned. Ask students why it might be important to appropriately accept ‘no’ for an answer?
PRACTICE ACTIVITIES	<p>In pairs (partner A and partner B), have students practice accepting “no” for an answer. Partner A will ask partner B for something or for permission. Partner B will say ‘no’ and partner A will demonstrate the skill of Accepting “No” for an Answer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Partner A will ask Partner B, the “teacher” if they can go to the library. The “teacher” says ‘no.’</i> Partner A will role-play how to accept ‘no’ effectively. <i>Partner B asks partner A, their “parent”, if they can go to a friend’s house and the “parent” says ‘no.’</i> Partner B will role-play how to accept ‘no’ effectively.

PRACTICE ACTIVITIES continued on next page

Accepting “No”

PRACTICE

Students can also practice **Accepting “No” for an Answer** by playing the game “Teacher, May I?” You will need an open space.

- The teacher will stand on one end, alone.
- Students line up, shoulder-to-shoulder, on the other end, about 10 or 20 feet away.
- Teach students some of the various steps of the game: i.e. baby steps, scissor steps, giant steps, jumping-jack steps, karate steps, or jump steps.
- The students will ask, “*Teacher, may I take (a certain number of a particular type of) steps?*”
- Prepare them that you might say, ‘yes’ and you might say, ‘no’ and they need to follow the skill steps of how to accept ‘no’ for an answer so that the game will be fun for all.
- Ask the students to remind you of the steps of **Accepting “No” for an Answer**
- During the game, have each student take turns asking, “*Teacher, may I?*” so everyone has an opportunity to practice accepting ‘no’ for an answer.

If you have read, *I Just Don’t Like the Sound of No!* by Julia Cook, ask the students to remind you of what RJ got to put up on the bulletin board when he said ‘yes’ to ‘no’. (A say ‘yes’ to ‘no’ star.)

Tell the students that you will be ‘catching them being good’ and when you see them saying ‘yes’ to ‘no’, they will earn a star, get to write their name on it, and decorate it as they desire. You will place it on the “Say ‘yes’ to ‘no’” bulletin board.

ASSESSMENT

Assess and reward students with specific praise and a say ‘yes’ to ‘no’ star to ensure they understand they have earned the positive consequence for accepting ‘no’ for an answer.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more activities and printables get the *I Just Don’t Like the Sound of NO Teacher Kit* by Julia Cook at boystownpress.org.



