

JONESBORO MATH AND SCIENCE MAGNET SCHOOL  
213 E. Thomas Green Road  
Jonesboro, AR 72401  
(870) 933-5845

November 5, 2007

Corinne,

Things went great last year! The students and teachers loved the program. Grade levels 1-5 participated in the program. Every month each student would choose one polite skill that they would like to practice or perfect. Each student would practice the polite skill at home, school, and in public for the month. Once I had a fifth-grader who chose to open the door for people whenever he was close to them. He went on a shopping trip with his grandmother and he became bored; so he stood by the door in the small shop, smiled, and open the door for people as they would enter or exit. An older lady entered the shop and without his knowledge she watched him for awhile. As she got ready to leave, he smiled and opened the door for her. She told him that she had never seen such a polite young man. She then gave him a one hundred dollar bill and told him to buy himself something special. She said that she was a doctor's wife and that she could afford it. All of the students did not get that kind of pay-off. However, I think most of the students gained a lot of knowledge and tried to do their best.

Also I received several positive comments from teachers and parents. The parent would have to sign-off for the month when the student would choose a polite thing to do and follow through. All the students who would return their forms from home and school got to participate in an activity or receive special things (receive a new book, watch a short movie at the end of the month, etc).

Additionally, to my surprise, the students liked the table manners section the most. All the students (grades 1-5) wanted to know how to set the table and how to correctly use table utensils. The boys were even excited. They would pull out the chairs for the girls to sit and would set the table along with the girls. I actually brought cloth napkins and one place setting of my good china from home so they could see how a real place setting should look. They then used paper plates, paper napkins, and plastic ware to set their individual place settings.

They practiced cutting with a knife and fork; and they practiced using their napkin to indicate if they would return to the table or not when they had to be excused. This activity was really good for the students at this school because a lot of them use paper plates at home and sit in front of the T.V. instead of sitting at the table.

We ended the year with a special culminating activity for the 5th grade. After studying how to be polite; learning ballroom dancing; and practicing table manners, the 5th grade students got to go to the Country Club to practice their skills. The students dressed in their finest and the Country Club provided the meal for over 100 students. The students were so excited; and the people from the Country Club said that they had excellent behavior and manners. Thanks for all of your help.

*DA*  
Deborah Agnew, Counselor