

Respect and Take Care of Things

Respetar y cuidar las cosas

Includes Activity Guide for Adults!

¡Incluye guía de actividades
para adultos!





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Respetar y cuidar las cosas

Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed.

Ilustrado por Meredith Johnson

Traducido por Edgar Rojas, EDITARO

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PUBLISHING®



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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Meiners, Cheri J., 1957–

Respect and take care of things = respetar y cuidar las cosas / Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed. ; ilustrado por Meredith Johnson, traducido por Edgar Rojas.

pages cm. — (Learning to get along series)

Summary: “Bilingual English-Spanish early childhood book teaches children the importance of respect, responsibility, and stewardship. Presented in a social story format. Includes a section for adults with discussion questions, activities, and tips to reinforce improving social skills” — Provided by publisher.

ISBN 978-1-63198-036-7 (paperback)

1. Respect—Juvenile literature. 2. Responsibility—Juvenile literature. I. Johnson, Meredith, illustrator. II. Rojas, Edgar, translator. III. Meiners, Cheri J., 1957– Respect and take care of things. IV. Meiners, Cheri J., 1957– Respetar y cuidar las cosas. Spanish. V. Title. VI.

Title: Respetar y cuidar las cosas.

BJ1533.R4.M45 2015

179'.9—dc23

2015006991

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Reading Level Grade 1; Interest Level Ages 4–8; Fountas & Pinnell Guided Reading Level H

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Translation edited by Dora O'Malley, EurUS Inc.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

R18860715

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Minneapolis, MN

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Free Spirit offers competitive pricing.

Contact edsales@freespirit.com for pricing information on multiple quantity purchases.



I'm learning to take care of myself
and things around me.

Estoy aprendiendo a cuidarme a mí misma y a cuidar
las cosas a mí alrededor.



I show respect
when I take care of things.

Demuestro respeto
cuando cuido las cosas.



After I use something, I put it where it belongs.
Everything has a place.

Después que utilizo una cosa,
la pongo de regreso en su lugar.
Todas las cosas tienen su lugar.



Ways to Reinforce the Ideas in *Respect and Take Care of Things*

As you read each page spread, ask children:

- What's happening in this picture?

Here are additional questions you might discuss:

Pages 1–9

- What are some things you can do for yourself?
- What do you do with the (blocks, dolls, trucks, puzzles) when you finish playing with them?
- What might happen if you don't put things away? if things are left on the floor? (Discuss safety issues as well as the possibility of items being lost or broken.)
- Have you ever lost something? How did you feel? What did you do to find it? How could you make sure not to lose it next time?
- What are things that you take care of at home? at school?
- What can you put away even if you weren't the one to use it?
- What is respect? (You might explain respect by saying: "When you respect something, you show that you think it's important. You take good care of it.")

Pages 10–13

- What are some things that are special to you? What do you do so they don't get dirty or broken?
- What are some things that you can use carefully, and not waste? (examples: toothpaste, toilet paper, glue, paints) How can you keep using things a long time? (examples: repair a bike tire, tape a ripped page, put things away so they don't get lost)

Pages 14–17

- What are some things that only grown-ups or older kids should use?
- What are things that you can use carefully so you and others stay safe? (You may wish to discuss care needed in using things like electrical appliances, scissors, stairs, bathtubs, medicine, umbrellas, bikes, and skates.)

Pages 18–23

- What can you do to leave a place better than you found it?
- What can you do if you have trash and don't see a place to put it?
- What do you think would happen if everyone littered? if nobody littered?
- What things can be recycled where we live? How can you help recycle?

- If you had some items that weren't needed, what could you do with them? (Discuss community recycling of things like paper and bottles, recycling and reusing margarine tubs and plastic bags, selling or donating outgrown clothing, and so forth.)

Pages 24–31

- What things do people have (at school, at home) that are just for them? (examples: backpacks, coats, papers, diaries, purses, mail) What can you do to respect other people's things?
- What can you do if you ask to use something and the person says no? (examples: do something else, ask to use it later)
- What are some things that belong to everyone? How can you take care of those things?

Other "Neat" Ideas

Storing Toys

- Keep "messy" toys out of reach so they can be used only when you're able to monitor.
- Keep other items in easily accessible places so children can become responsible for taking care of them.
- Keep items with small parts in containers with lids or in resealable plastic bags.
- Let children sort a large box of buttons—first by color, then by size, shape, and number of buttons. Encourage children to start their own collections of items such as coins, stamps, rocks, or leaves that they can sort, organize, and enjoy taking care of.

Tidying a Cluttered Room

- Use a timer and give a time frame: "Put things away for five minutes."
- Have children count items as they pick them up.
- Suggest picking up all of one item at a time: "First put away all the blocks, then all the crayons."

Staying Clutter-Free

- Show children where things go, and allow time for cleanup after every activity.
- Teach children to put one item away before using another.
- Temporarily put away items that children routinely neglect to pick up.
- Assign chores such as washing a sink, cleaning whiteboards, sorting clean socks, or picking up litter at a park to teach responsibility and a sense of community.