

# Book Talk

## Fun with *The Man with Bad Manners*

- Remember to have fun with reading. The most important thing at this age is that your child be exposed to books and reading. Read the story slowly or numerous times. Let it sink in!
- Engage your child by asking questions.

**“What do you think of the clever boy and his ideas? Why do you think this?”**

**“Have you ever had an idea that you just had to share with other people? What happened? Can you get people to listen to you and work together?”**

**“Do you think the man is happy at the end? How about everyone else?”**

**“Have you ever met anyone like the man with bad manners? What did you do?”**

**These questions have no wrong answers! They encourage your children to think about the story in their own way and help them feel confident about expressing themselves.**

- Talk to your child about how people work together at home and at school and how problems are handled. Ask:

**“What do you do as a group at school?”**

**“Are groups of people different than just one or two people? How so?”**

**“How do you think we work together in our family? What things or chores do we share?”**



# At Home and in the World

## Manners Here and There

- With your child, make a list of both good and bad manners. Help your child think of different manners for different times — for dinnertime, in class, during recess, riding in a car or bus, and so on.
- Brainstorm with your child about badly behaved people. Ask: “How could you convince someone to behave in a nice way?”
- At dinnertime, practice “table manners” with the entire family. This can be fun and funny at the same time.
- Go to the library and check out a book on manners around the world. Discuss with your child how a “bad” manner in one country may be a “good” manner in another. For example, the Filipinos believe a burp after a meal means the food was good, and they usually follow it with, “Ah, thank you.”
- Act out good manners and bad manners HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE!

## Doing Things Together

- There are many ways in which people cooperate. Talk to your child about working together and playing together. Here are some activities to try:
  - Cook’s Assistant:** Ask your child to help you prepare food in the kitchen.
  - Clean Up!** Encourage your child to help you clean the house.
  - Team Games:** Encourage your child to play baseball, soccer or basketball.
  - House Memory:** Cut white cards or heavy paper into ten 2”x3” pieces. Draw a picture of a house on each piece and help your child color each house with a bright color. Make two cards with each color — two cards with a red house, two with a green house, and so on. Write the name of the color below each house. Mix up the cards, and lay them out face down. Take turns with your child turning over two cards at a time trying to match cards with the same color houses. If they don’t match, turn them back over. Keep trying and when two cards match, keep them face up. Continue until you find all the pairs.
  - Build a House:** Get a large cardboard box from a local store. Refrigerator boxes are great. Let your child help design a “house” by telling you where to cut doors and windows in the box. Make sure you remind your child that only you can do the cutting, since it is your job, while your child’s job is to plan the house. Help your child decorate the “house.”
- Watch people build something. How do they work together? What might happen if they didn’t?
- Act out the story of *The Man with Bad Manners*. Let children take turns pretending to be the clever boy, the man with bad manners and other characters.