Lesson 10
Even You Can Get Along with Teachers

Goal: To assist students who have difficulty successfully interacting with teachers, to acquire the skills to interact more successfully.

Materials: Marker board, markers, one copy for each student of "A Student's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Teachers", assembled into booklet form. (To assemble a booklet for each student, you need to make just one double-sided sheet per student using the two pages that follow this lesson. Be sure to make back-to-back copies using two sides of each page so that each booklet will be made from just a single, two-sided sheet of paper. When making the back-to-back sheets, the text should begin at the top of both sides as shown in the diagram below.

[Diagram of booklet assembly]

1. **Distribute** the copies of "A Student's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Teachers." Assist the students to read aloud and discuss one page at a time.

2. **Ask** the students to identify any problems they might have interacting with teachers in a reasonable manner, as detailed in the guide. Discuss with the students how the techniques from the guide would work with adults' authority figures, such as the IRS, police, bosses, business customers and apartment managers. Aid the students to recognize that the guidelines identified in the booklet mirror the ways they will have to interact with authorities when adults, in order to be successful.

3. **Assist** the students who have problems successfully interacting with teachers, to work with the rest of the class to identify these problems and develop specific plans to successfully address these concerns. Assist the class to recognize that learning to successfully manage teacher problems is vital preparation to later successfully managing adult authority problems.

4. **Review** the major points of this lesson:
   - Teachers must be treated in a business-like, non-abusive manner if they are to be able to best help you prepare for your future. Teachers have much to offer you, should you choose to accept it.
   - Learning to successfully interact with teachers who you find difficult, gives you essential preparation for successfully managing the authorities you will later encounter as an adult.
   - The best way to manage problems with authorities is to identify the problem then work it out.
Cure of Your Teacher: Exterior Components

Your teacher could be damaged if jostled. Your teacher won't work properly if treated in a rough or abusive manner. Your teacher could lose the ability to smile, offer a friendly greeting or show enthusiasm. It is never necessary to shake or push your teacher.

Your teacher is designed with features similar to an elevator. Aggressively or repeatedly pushing elevator buttons does not cause the elevator to arrive more quickly. Like elevators, teachers already operate at maximum speed and cannot respond to you any faster—no matter how long or hard you push their buttons.

Communicating with Your Teacher

Your teacher is equipped with a minimum of two ears and two eyes. Some models require glasses, but still need minimum standards, and can spot a raised hand from across one classroom-sized space.

Your teacher does not include optional mind-reading capabilities, and can not magically determine when you need help. To respond properly, your teacher will need written, verbal or visual communication. Your teacher is not equipped to recognize that pencil tapping, sneering or fleeing the room mean that you need help. General griping and complaining, being absent, or refusing to talk are not enough to trigger the helping response included with every teacher.

When to Heed Your Teacher

Heed your teacher daily. Failure to heed creates problems for both you and your teacher. You do not have to like heeding teachers, but it prepares you to work with authorities such as bosses, the IRS, customers and building managers.

To heed your teacher, you need just one word: "yes."

Heeding your teacher can offer benefits you never imagined. Teachers are created to be "on your side". If you permit it, your teacher can help shape your life for the better with words of wisdom, bits of insight, and glimpses into your best possible future. Teachers don't just show you the stars. If you let them, teachers help you reach the stars.

A Student's Guide to the CARE and HEEDING of Teachers
How to Get Your Teacher to Do What You Want

Understandably, you want a teacher who will do what you want, not what he or she wants. However, all types and styles of teachers come equipped with independent, internal controls, and cannot be remotely operated. There are no student-controllable parts.

Some student actions can actually cause your teacher to become less likely to offer the outcome you are seeking. Most teachers will not produce the desired behavior even if subjected to threats, or endless repetitions of the word "no." Your teacher is programmed to stand firm when yelled at, nagged, baited or threatened.

Care of Your Teacher: Audio Component

Although your teacher is designed to last all school year, your teacher is not indestructible. Following a few simple steps, will help your teacher continue to best help you.

Your teacher is equipped to run weekdays, approximately nine months of the year. Your teacher will function properly even during rainy, snowy or cold conditions. Your teacher is equipped with standard hearing and will not require yelling or screaming. Your teacher is able to detect whispered side talk, but is not equipped to decipher that your grunt is a request for help.

Congratulations on receiving a teacher!

Your teacher is designed for years of instruction, grading, testing and fire drills. As standard equipment, your teacher is immediately ready to offer you the tools and skills you will need throughout your lifetime. Most teachers are equipped to offer, as an added option, the inspiration, encouragement and understanding you may need now, and will remember for years to come.

Although we have designed your teacher to be durable and resilient under normal conditions, following a few basic guidelines will help your teacher keep working for you all school year long.

What to Do When Your Teacher Doesn’t Work Right

Each teacher is designed to be perfect—to effectively provide you with the best, most important information that you will need for a lifetime. However, despite careful preparation, government licensure, and years of training, not every teacher will perform to your liking or expectations.

The best way to fix problems with the operation of your teacher, is to tell your teacher about it. All teachers want to do a good job, but are not able to change or fix concerns until alerted by you. Counselors, principals or parents can also help. Most teachers are designed to graciously accept feedback that is offered kindly.