


How What I Say And How I Act Impacts The Respect I Get.

There are many famous quotes surrounding respect. . . “It’s a two-way street, if you want to get it, you’ve got to give it” or you may have heard “Treat others how you want to be treated.” Today, we are going to look at these phrases and see some real-life examples of what they really mean.

Before coming into teaching I worked in pharmaceutical sales, working day in day out with highly educated individuals, some from local pharmacies and some hospitals and regional trusts. Each day I would speak to these pharmacists, sometimes face to face, sometimes on the phone, helping them to meet the needs of their patients. Daily, they were courteous and respectful, which in turn meant that I enjoyed my job, and would do everything I could to guarantee there was a constant supply of stock to them. Theoretically, as long as I sent the stock somewhere, I had done my job. But because of the way I was treated by these customers I always wanted to ensure I did the best I could for all of them. Attitude reflects attitude!

More recently, I bought a bike from a well-known bike shop at the start of lockdown, and the wait for delivery was growing each day. Soon after I placed the order, I got a call from their customer service team, apologising for the delay. She was friendly, and I tried to be as respectful and polite as I could. She went on to tell me how rude most customers were being to her, even in these exceptional circumstances. People were annoyed, shouting and one person even hung up on her. It seems like there are a lot of angry people in lockdown waiting for bikes – but not me! She told me I was the first person on the phone that day who wasn’t rude to her, so therefore she was bumping my bike up the order list. The 18 day wait I was told when ordering only turned out to be a 4 day wait for me. . . what a result!

It just goes to show, it does not matter how clever you are, or what job you do, whether you are rich or poor, respect and good manners are easy to display. It really does not cost anything to be polite and respectful to other people, and you never know quite where or what it may get you! 

Task **- Miss Hughes**

REFLECTION – can you think of a time where you have been respectful, and therefore another person has been respectful to you? Or are you brave enough to tell us about a time you were not respectful to others and therefore they weren’t respectful back?

To help you, try to answer the following questions.

What did you say to the person? What did they say back to you?

How did what they said make you feel?

Would you like your friends and family to be spoken to in the same way?

Would your friends and family be proud of the way you spoke? Are you pleased with how things went?

•If not, if you find yourself in the same situation what would you do differently?

It may be a situation at school between you and a teacher, or maybe between you and a friend, or you and a family member. If you are completely stuck, speak to a grown up and ask them about a time they were, or were not respectful – I’m sure they will have lots of examples to help you with this task.

And remember, today, tomorrow, or next week – attitude reflects attitude!