

WEEK 14 Using the Phone



Dear Parent/Guardian,

For Your Heart

This week, we are working on telephone manners. First graders are learning:

- Phone manners are much more than learning how to make and take calls.
- Children gain responsibility in other areas of life when they learn to use the phone responsibly.
- Learning how and when to use the phone protects children from the risk of overuse and addiction.

Your child is developing consideration for others by learning to speak respectfully to the caller.

For the Heart of Your Child

Ask your child to share the story, “BillyBeeRight’s Buzz,” which tells about the bee’s experience at the park when he sees parents on their phones and what he does about it! Talk to your child about times when it is not appropriate to use a phone (family time, movies, supper table, etc.) and do your best to model that for your child.

Here are a few ways to reinforce your child’s new understanding of phone manners:

- Teach by example. Use polite telephone manners when you are using the phone at home. Even if you receive an unwanted call, let your child hear you speak to the person on the other end of the line with respect.
- Teach your child not to interrupt when you are using the phone.
 - Teach your child when it is important enough to interrupt and when it is not.
 - Teach your child to say “excuse me” in a low voice and wait for your response.
 - Have reasonable expectations for your child. When you can, let him or her know how long your call may be, and ask if he or she needs anything before you begin. Keep in mind that it may be difficult for a young child to wait longer than 10-15 minutes if they have a question.

From Our Hearts to Yours,



PS Don’t forget to ask what RESPONSIBILITY and COURTESY mean!

RESPONSIBILITY—Following through on my work without being reminded
COURTESY—Respectful and well-mannered words and actions toward others

