

Jenny Mosley's

Small Book
of

Games
and
Activities



We are gentle

Positive Press

The Golden Rules in Action Series



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Introduction

Jenny Mosley has written the circle time guidance for SEAD (Social & Emotional Aspects of Development – DCSF 2008) and SEAL

Well-chosen games offer a wonderful fusion of many things that children enjoy and a whole host of other skills and values that they need. Children are motivated to play enthusiastically because they thrive on the ritual, interaction and excitement of a vibrant game while you are happy because you know that they are also learning essential personal and social skills and moral values at the same time.

The games in this little series of books have been devised to specifically teach the moral values encapsulated in 'The Six Golden Rules' –

We are gentle ... We don't hurt others
We are honest ... We don't cover up the truth
We listen ... We don't interrupt
We are kind and helpful ... We don't hurt anybody's feelings
We look after property ... We don't damage things
We work hard ... We don't waste time (For very young children we substitute the word 'work' with 'try hard').



Each game is focused on a particular aspect of children's moral development which means that staff can use them as part of their curriculum for personal, social and moral education and incorporate them into any Circle Time or transition sessions at any time of the day. Because each activity is suited to purpose, you can also use them as valuable assessment diagnostic tools. Observe your children carefully as they play and you will quickly see who has problems with a particular way of relating, thinking and doing and you will be able to create plans to help them through further small-group work to help them to develop the qualities and understanding of skills they need. If you have an assistant, you could take it in turns to lead the session with the other one observing.

Golden Rules in Action, We are Gentle, by Jenny Mosley. www.circle-time.co.uk

Make time to share your ideas with each other. These games also allow you an opportunity to identify children's strengths and feedback to them their talents and gifts. It is essential you create moments of success for every child in your care.

The games in these books are not just for the nurseries or classrooms. Families can play many of them at home either just as they are printed or by adapting them to suit the age range of their children. Even better – why don't you hold workshops at your school for parents and children together? We know many schools and nurseries who do this – and it's a wonderful 'growing' opportunity for everyone. That said - we are all aware that some children do not necessarily get the guidance and support they need at home, some children are only taught the 'golden rule' – if anyone hits you – hit back! These children are greatly helped by playing games that offer the experience of how Golden Rules work in their real, lived-in world. You can reinforce this learning by playing games alongside all the other strategies you are using to embed moral values in the children – flashcards, stickers, posters, stories – see the back of this book.

Each little book contains 20 games and extension activities. Each game is described with easy-to-follow instructions and needs little or no preparation or elaborate equipment. They can be used in any order and can be enjoyed many times without anyone becoming bored or frustrated. You can link them to your current curriculum themes or utilise specific games to suit the perceived needs of your particular group of children.

Golden Rules are not an 'add-on' that can be taught in a series of one-off lessons. These values are the bedrock upon which your setting builds its sense of community and purpose. We need our children to engage in learning the Golden Rules both emotionally and cognitively and the activities in these books are designed to do just that.



Contents:-**Golden Rules in Action - We are gentle**

Title	page
Foot out and hand in	6
Don't wake the baby	8
Make me a cake	10
Alfred the Alligator needs you now	12
Children, children, where is the egg?	14
Aeroplanes	16
A lullaby for baby	18
The gentle giant	20
Buster Brawn's boots	22
Blowing balloons	24
Witch's den	26
Over and under	28
Ten soft cushions	30
Cat and mouse	32
Hot potato	34
The snowmen are here	36
Hunter and hunted	38
Make it last	40
Broken/mended	42
Cinderella	44



Aeroplanes

What you need: space

Preparation: none

What to do:



Tell the children that this is a game that will help them to be gentle when they run around outside. Tell them that they must watch where they are going because nobody wants them to crash into each other. Remind them that we do not hurt each other.

Ask them to stand in a space on their own and call out these instructions.

The aeroplane has wide, wide wings.

Children stretch out their arms.

It flies in straight lines

Children move forward

And round in rings

The 'aeroplanes' move in circles

The plane flies fast and very high

The children move quickly

And loops the loop in the bright blue sky

Children do impressive manoeuvres.

Say - Wow, well done, I can't believe you managed to dodge around each other so gently. We didn't have any crashes.

Now try this ...

In pairs, the children take turns to blink their eyelashes on each other's hands – gently, like a butterfly.

Ask the children to paint/draw a picture to go with this rhyme.

*Little fuzzy caterpillar
In your warm cocoon
The cold winter's over and you'll be hatching soon.
Then you'll spread your wings
On a warm summer's day
And wave us all goodbye
As you fly, as you fly
As you fly far away.*



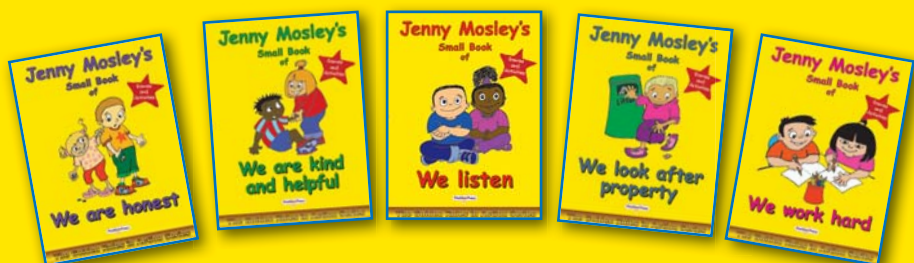
Jenny Mosley's

Small Book of Golden Rules in Action

These small books are bursting with ideas to bring the Golden Rules to life. Inside each one you will find games and activities that make learning values real and relevant to even the youngest child. Each book is full of games that are designed to ensure steady, incremental development of the knowledge, understanding and skills they will need to become confident, empathic and socially pro-active citizens of the future. Each book focuses on one of the Golden Rules:

We are gentle ... We don't hurt others
We are honest ... We don't cover up the truth
We listen ... We don't interrupt
We are kind and helpful ... We don't hurt anybody's feelings
We look after property ... We don't damage things
We work hard ... We don't waste time

Each page is crammed with stimulating ideas and extension activities that make learning motivating and fun. Each booklet is a treasure chest that you can open at any transitional time of day to teach your children positive moral values and social skills.



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