

# COURTESY IN THE PLAYGROUND



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

**Children know the rules of the playground and what makes a courteous 'break buddy'. Children understand the phrase 'The little things in life make a big difference' in reference to courtesy.**

### Suggested Resources:

*The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Andersen (various adaptations available) - a story about an ugly duckling who is mistreated by other ducklings, but in the end he turns into a beautiful swan.

### Script:

Remind children of the previous lesson about good manners and being courteous at lunchtimes. "Can you think of another time in the school day when they eat and talk with their friends? Are good manners the same at break time or lunch? What is the same (lining up, no pushing in; no talking with mouth full; help your friends) and what is different (no cutlery, snack, outside, etc.)? What else must we do to show courtesy in the playground?" Focus the discussion on keeping the playground a safe place (litter in bins, use equipment properly) and also sharing this time with friends (sharing equipment, asking people to join in, taking turns).

## Character Coaching

### Guidance:

Please remember the rules of courtesy before you eat today.

### Meaningful Praise:

I can see a lot of courtesy at this table. What do you think I have noticed? How is your courtesy making your lunchtime more enjoyable?

### Suggested Activities:

**All Together:** Introduce the saying 'The little things in life make a big difference' in the context of giving up a little bit of your time playing with a piece of equipment so that another person can join in and the good feeling that child will have when they are included. What might that child do the next time they are playing with something and you want to join in?

**Story:** *The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Andersen (various adaptations available). Use this story to extend the circle time session on the importance of asking children to join in at playtime. How do you think the ugly duckling feels? What should the other ducklings have done?

**Writing:** Children practise writing labels on to helpful signs to decorate their dining hall (e.g. 'Food waste goes here'; 'Put plates here'; and 'Remember to say please and thank you').

**Role Play:** Set up a tea party for children to practise their table manners - not talking with their mouths full, offering their friends food, etc.

### Correction:

If you see someone who wants to join in your game, the courteous thing to do is to ask them to join you. Have you ever wanted to join in a game but have not been asked? How did that make you feel?