

Sportsmanship

SPORTSMANSHIP means to play fair, show respect for opponents, and behave courteously whether winning or losing.

LESSON 1

Read the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Discuss each part of the definition, giving examples of each. Teach students that good sportsmanship includes no arguing, obeying rules, and praising others for a job well done. Ask students which sport is their favorite to play and why. Remind students that having fun is the most important part of sports or games. Give students a sheet of paper. Allow time for them to draw a picture of themselves having fun playing their favorite sport.

School/Home Link Ask students to play a game of Tic Tac Toe with someone at home using good sportsmanship.

LESSON 2

Review the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Ask students if they have ever experienced or been around people who showed POOR sportsmanship. List some poor sportsmanship behaviors on the board (booing, making excuses, bragging, cheating). Make a T-chart and for each negative (poor) behavior listed, have them give a suggestion of how to make it more positive. Example:

NEGATIVE	POSITIVE
Booing	Cheering
Making excuses	Learning from mistakes
Cheating	Play fair

School/Home Link Ask students to talk with a family member about negative and positive behaviors of sportsmanship.

LESSON 3

Review the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Allow students to practice good sportsmanship by playing a Bean Bag Toss game. Divide the class into two groups. Place a target or large container on the floor. Have a person from each team take turns throwing the beanbags (or pieces of paper wadded up into balls) at or into the target. Encourage and praise sportsmanlike behaviors, such as cheering on each player, taking turns, encouraging each player to try their best, etc. Keep score of each time a player hits the target and add points when good sportsmanship is displayed.

School/Home Link Play a family game and model good sportsmanship and encourage others in your family.

LESSON 4

Review the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Tell students to take out a sheet of paper for a "Sportsmanship Test". Instruct them to write a plus "+" or minus "-" mark in response to each statement read. Read: **I listen to the rules of the game. * I do not get involved in arguments. * I do not pout when I make a mistake. * I do not brag when I win. * I play fair. * I share responsibilities of the team. * I show respect to the other team. * I show respect to the coaches. * I encourage other players. * I accept all the judgment calls of the game. * I do not make excuses if I lose.** Encourage students to keep working on improving by choosing to be good sports.

School/Home Link Ask students to share their "Sportsmanship Test" with a family member.

LESSON 5

Review the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Have students create a good sportsmanship chain for the class. Give students different colors of construction paper. Have them cut strips about two inches wide. Ask them to write a characteristic or behavior of good sportsmanship on each strip. Examples may include: courage to do the right thing, encourage others regardless of their skill level, have fun, follow the rules, be considerate of others, respect coaches and teammates, and have self-control. Show students how to glue their strips together linking them through one another. Connect the students' links together using extra strips to make a class sportsmanship chain. Display the chain in the room.

School/Home Link Make a sportsmanship chain with a family member.