

# Asking A Question

**A Gosmos Grow Adventure**



## **Asking A Question: (Social Skills)**

There are some social skills that need to be learned early and well. Asking a question will be an important skill as your child starts school and for social interactions throughout their life.

# Asking A Question

## A. Main Focus:

Understanding that when our "likes" become "needs", we set ourselves up for disappointment and to be overly concerned about the opinion of others.

## B. The Main Concepts:

Have you ever considered how often you ask a question of someone? Do you always ask questions the same way? Do you ever think about "how can I get them to give me an honest answer"? Do you sometimes resist asking a question even though you know you really need to know something? As adults, we "think things through" (some of the time) rather than just blurt out our first impulsive question that comes to mind.

As an adult, you may not remember the process of learning how to ask (or not ask) a question. It is highly unlikely that anyone taught you "Question Asking Etiquette". But most of us have heard "If you did not know how to do that, you should have asked me. Now clean up this mess!" Or, how about, "You have asked me this a million times so you better never ask me again!" And, "Can't you see I am too busy to answer your question!"

There are emotional components to those examples, shame, fear, anger, all because as a child you were never taught the "rules" of question asking. In the context of the previous paragraph, we assume these conversations took place in the family setting. And therefore, the recipient knows the adult well enough to evaluate the response and as "Mom is having a bad day", "I will ask before I ever do that again". But in a school or social setting, the same responses from an adult (teacher) will not have "having a bad day" modifier and the child's emotional response may not be appropriate.

The goal of this story is to provide simple rules for this frequent social interaction ... asking a question.

## C. Teach the Defining Terms to The Students

## **D. Listen to the Flip Book Story**

## **E. Sample Dialogue with Students after Listening to the Story**

What was The First Question Rule?

“Never just say What!”

Sometimes we may get distracted or may not be paying attention to what someone is saying, and then we ask “WHAT?!!”. Sometimes we can say WHAT?, so much that it becomes annoying or it makes others feel like we do not care enough to listen to what they are saying. In the story what are some things we can say, if we realize we were not paying attention?

“I am sorry, I missed some of what you were saying, would you please repeat it.”

This would help the other person to feel like what they were saying is important to you and that you really want to listen. And if the person does repeat what they said, what can we say?

“Thanks for telling it to me again.”

What was the Second Rule?

“Don’t Interrupt with a Question”

We all have lots of questions about things, and we like for our questions to be answered. But sometimes we can be so interested in our own questions that we are not really paying attention to what someone else is saying. For example, sometimes in class when I am trying to explain the directions on how to do something, someone may shout out that they do not understand what to do. Instead of shouting out a question about what to do, what could we do instead?

We can calm down and listen to you explain what to do and after you finish explaining, then we can ask if we still have a question.

The Third Question Rule is “Don’t ask Questions to get attention”. What does this rule mean?

This rule means that we should not ask questions just because we want someone to pay attention to us.

If we get in the habit of asking questions just to get attention, then people are going to start to get frustrated by all of the silly questions, and may stop listening, even to the important questions we may have.

The Fourth Rule is “Don’t be afraid to ask a question if you really need to.” What does this rule mean?

That if we have an important question, then we should ask it and not feel scared to.

Sometimes we may feel nervous or worried about asking a question. Maybe we are worried we will sound silly or that others will laugh at us. So we may not understand the directions of what to do, but are too scared to ask the teacher for help. What was the example in the story of being too scared to ask?

The story uses the (bird) example of being too embarrassed to ask, “Is there a difference between a dog and a fox?” Not knowing the difference could be very bad for the bird.

So what happens if you follow all of these rules and ask a question just right, but the person ignores you or tells you “not now”? What does our story tell us to do then?

Our Fifth Rule says that we “Don’t demand answers.” That we can tell ourselves that we know we followed the question rules, but that it is okay and maybe they can answer my question another time.

Is the way that we ask a question in class the same as it is at home?

No, in class we raise our hand to talk or ask a question and at home we do not have to raise our hand (or something like this)

Right, that is why our sixth rule is “Know how to ask, wherever you are.” Asking a question at school the same way we do at home, may get you in trouble at

school. While raising your head and waiting to be called on at home may confuse your parents. We have to know what the rules are for the different places that we are at.

So we can use these Rules to help guide us in knowing how to ask a question. If we work to follow these rules, we can become an expert Question Asker.