



January News

Miami Springs Middle School

Coach your child on how to deal with disrespectful people

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Successful school behavior can depend on how well your child deals with people who may treat him with rudeness or disrespect. Students get in trouble at school every day because they overreact to rudeness. They may even wind up in worse trouble than the student who started it.

Perhaps this has never happened to your child. But it is likely he has witnessed someone getting in trouble after overreacting.

Help your child stay out of this trap and take responsibility for his own behavior. Tell him to:

- **Turn away** from the offender and concentrate on something else.
- **Smile**, shake your head and walk away.

- **Take deep breaths** to cool down.
- **Ask the teacher** to excuse him. Then go to the water fountain for a drink of water.
- **Think of a person** (like you) he can talk to later about what happened.
- **Think of a time** he received a great compliment, or a time when someone did something really nice.
- **Think of himself** in detention and work to avoid that!
- **Talk to his teacher** or school counselor if this is an ongoing problem. They can work with the rude student privately.

Source: Julia G. Thompson, *Discipline Survival Guide for the Secondary Teacher*, ISBN: 0-87628-434-9

January Events

Classes resume	01/05
Miami Children's Mobile Health Unit	01/08-01/09
Piano Performance	01/09
Midterm Exams	01/08-01/13
Midterm Makeup Exams	01/14-01/15
Teacher Planning Day	01/16
Legal Holiday	01/19
Title I Parent Meeting 9:30 a.m. Media Center	01/28
Poetry Alive	01/28
Early Release Day	01/29

Enjoy the benefits of reading aloud with your middle schooler

You may think that reading aloud is something you could do only when your child is younger. Not true. At this age, your child will be able to carry on conversations about the reading and can pay better attention to what she's reading.

Here are some tips for reading aloud to your preteen:

- **Share your thoughts.** Get a conversation started. Be sure to ask your child a question about the reading to get her thinking. "I was really surprised the main character did that. What do you think?"
- **Mix it up.** Don't jump right into a chapter book or series. Read something light and entertaining,

then switch to something that your child can ponder.

- **Respect her privacy.** If your preteen doesn't want to share her thoughts about what you're reading, don't pressure her. Maybe she's embarrassed to speak up—or maybe she just doesn't have anything to say. Enjoy your time together.