

Practice/ Activity

CIVIC - Civility

Civility encourages open-mindedness to face disagreements with others. Addressing differences with heart and curiosity is a critical skill to teach civility.

To teach civility consider developing a set of norms for students to follow when faced with differing opinions or perspectives. The following suggestions are adapted from [Doing Good Together](#).

1. Begin with behavior that highlights mutual respect: eye contact, take turns speaking, one person speaks at a time.
2. Encourage children to begin again when their tone changes to nagging, bullying or disrespect.
3. Encourage using I statements and model ways to encourage curiosity for another's perspective. For example: Tell me more about that, What do you think about ____? For example: Tell me more about that, What do you think about...?
4. Learn to be okay with being wrong.
5. Ask questions and listen to understand another person's point of view.

Developing a set of norms to encourage and practice conversational empathy and curiosity will ultimately help us have more meaningful and respectful conversations.