Maturity/Self-Control Lesson

**Purpose:** To teach self control

**Materials:**

Behavior map activity pages

Always Listen to your Mother by Florence Perry Heide

**Time:** 30 - 45 minutes

**Focus:**

Display the picture “Maturity – Being Your Own Boss” and lead students in discussion about the different abilities of the various aged children.

Example Discussion Questions:

Which one could stay home alone the longest?

Why can’t the youngest one stay home alone?

Which one needs the most adult supervision? Why?

What is something this one might be able to do that another one might not be able to do?

Explain to the students that maturity means “being your own boss” (you need less adult supervision) because *you* know HOW TO ACT WHERE YOU ARE. Discuss some behavioral expectations in different situations, ex: school, church, funeral, store, doctor’s office, wedding, Six Flags, playground, etc… A baby will scream and pee anywhere, whereas an older child will scream on a roller coaster and use the restroom because they know how to act where they are.

**Lesson:**

Read the book. Ask questions about how each boy’s house has different behavioral expectations. Point out that Ernest won’t get in trouble as long as he knows how to act where he is.

**Closure:**

Pass out Venn Diagram Behavior Map and List of Activities. In pairs have students write the number of the activity into the appropriate spot on the Venn Diagram. It helps to do the first couple with them. Discuss and have students tell you what they have learned today before you leave.

Behavior Map Activity

Read each behavior then write the number where it belongs on the Behavior Map.

1. Talk any time you want
2. Make fun of others
3. Raise your hand to talk
4. Use restroom without asking
5. Whine
6. Ask to go to the restroom
7. Walk around without asking
8. Ask to walk somewhere
9. Use manners
10. Say “yes ma’am” or “sir” to adults
11. Wrestle around
12. Argue
13. Follow directions
14. Read books
15. Cough without covering mouth
16. Run
17. Write your name on things
18. Be loud
19. Play with your food
20. Use polite words
21. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



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1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Maturity = being your own boss**

**Knowing: HOW to act - WHERE you are**

