FEBRUARY 2026 | OCELOT

RESPECT

Showing others they are important by what you say and do



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NEWSLETTER

Respect
FEBRUARY 2026



SAY IT:

Respect: Showing others they are important by what you say and do

KNOW IT:

ASK A GROWN-UP:

- How are some ways you show respect to people at work or in the community?
- How does it make you feel when people show you respect?

ASK A KID:

- How can you show respect to teachers at school?
- How can you show respect to other students at school?

SEE IT:

Most of us have seen what happens when we fail to show respect to people in authority or our peers. We have either experienced it ourselves or seen others who were not respectful. In the story *The Boy Who Always Talks Back* we see the consequences of choosing not to show respect. Through this story, the main character Max, learns what it means to have respect, but also grows to understand the benefits of being respectful to those around him.

Take a few minutes and watch this video and see the valuable lessons Max learns as he understands how and why to have respect: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VG3arGjg0Hk

BE IT:

Set a family goal to always try to have respect for each other. Give each other permission to talk about times when you feel disrespected or when you find it difficult to show respect. Be creative and write your own short story about a student who is struggling with respect. What lessons can he/she learn about the benefits of showing others they are important by what they say and do?

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PHASE

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We all want to know that we matter, that we are important.

One way that we can discover how we are important to others is through work. Maybe your child isn't ready to put in an 8-hour day at the office (who is!?), but he or she can still do significant work that will help your family and others. From taking out the trash, to doing dishes, folding laundry, or lending a hand to the neighbor, there are age-appropriate tasks that all kids can do.

Doing this work will make them feel important, needed, and connected to others.

So don't miss it. This month, look for work that develops independent habits in your child.

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You're hiking through an Amazon rainforest, leaves rustling, insects humming, and the smell of damp earth filling your nose - Quick, name that cat! Did you see it? Tawny colors with dark spots and stripes and splotches….

Naming that cat might not be so easy. In addition to the very large and powerful jaguar, covered in its dark rosettes, three smaller wildcats with similar markings stalk these forests.

Next to the jaguar in size, but much smaller, is the ocelot. Males weigh up to 40 pounds. Similar in appearance, but with larger eyes and longer legs, is the smaller margay, which weighs up to 10 pounds. Margays are arboreal, meaning they spend most of their time in trees. Finally, the reclusive oncilla is similarly marked but is only the size of a small housecat, at four to seven pounds.

The striking and adaptable ocelot can be found from southern Texas to northern Argentina, slowly stalking in high cloud forests or mangrove swamps, or environments in between. Ocelots have spotted coats with rosettes and bars, and each pattern is unique. The ocelot was respected as a fierce hunter in ancient cultures in Mexico, Brazil, and Peru, sometimes depicted in art and objects.

Like coat patterns, ocelot activity patterns vary from place to place. In areas with dense prey populations, such as the Amazon rainforest, home ranges are small. In the Southwestern United States, where a small number of ocelots remain, home ranges are larger.

In 2024 at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Center at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, ground was broken on an ocelot conservation facility and breeding program. It will include a natural environment for young ocelots, so that they can be released when they're old enough to live a wild life on their own.

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Platinum, a chemical element that is a silvery white metal, signifies prestige. King Louis XVI of France (1754-1793) declared it the only metal "fit for kings." The Hope Diamond, at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D. C., is set in platinum. Though relatively new as a metal used in Western industry and jewelry, platinum was used in ornamental objects in Ancient Egypt and also by pre-Columbian South American artisans more than 2500 years ago. As a color, platinum is grayish-white with a silver metallic sheen. Platinum is more highly regarded than bronze, silver, or gold, and symbolizes elegance and excellence.

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