

# Feedforward

This new section of *The Individual Psychologist* is devoted to letters and comments from readers. Its purpose is to stimulate responses to ideas, issues, techniques and other discussion appearing in articles published in the current or recent issues. Letters of any length are welcome. Journal space, however, is limited, and succinct, well prepared comments are most likely to be printed. Letters may be edited and in some cases a reply to the response will be sought. Not all letters submitted will be published, but the editors look forward to reading all "feedforward." Journal authors who receive letters commenting on their articles are encouraged to share them in this section. Please address all letters to *IP Feedforward*, c/o Jon Carlson, Route 4, Box 492, Lake Geneva, WI 53147.

In response to Dick Huddleston's article "That's Not My Job, Or Is It?" which appeared in the March 1979 issue of the *IP*, P.B. Burke sent a copy of the following "Rights and Responsibilities of Elementary School Children."

## **Students Rights and Responsibilities (elementary level)**

### **My Rights**

I have the right to be treated with understanding in this school; this means that others will not laugh at me or try to hurt my feelings.

I have the right to be myself in this school; this means that no one will treat me unfairly because I am: black or white, fat or thin, tall or short, boy or girl, child or adult.

I have the right to be safe in my school & in riding the bus to & from school; this means that no one will hit me, kick me, push me, pinch, threaten or hurt me.

I have the right to expect my property to be safe in this school.

I have the right to hear and be heard in school; this means that no one will yell, scream, shout, make loud noises or otherwise disturb me.

I have the right to learn about myself and others in this school; this means that I am free to express my thoughts and feelings without being interrupted or punished.

I have the right to a free public education through grade twelve. I have the right to learn the basic skills of reading, writing, arithmetic, and self-expression. I have the right not to be hindered by others in this learning.

I have the right to be helped to learn self-control in this school; this means that no one will stand by silently while I abuse the rights of others or when others abuse my rights.

I have the right to be proud of my school, my community, my state, and my country.

I have the right to expect that all these rights will be mine in all circumstances as long as I am exercising my full responsibilities.

### **My Responsibilities**

I have the responsibility to treat others with understanding; this means that I will not laugh at others, tease, or try to hurt the feelings of others.

I have the responsibility to respect others as individuals and not to treat others unfairly because they are: black or white, fat or thin, tall or short, boy or girl, child or adult.

I have the responsibility to make my school and the bus rides safe by not: hitting anyone, kicking, pushing, pinching, threatening or hurting anyone.

I have the responsibility to respect the property of others, not to harm or take it.

I have the responsibility to help maintain a calm and quiet school; this means that I will not yell, scream, shout, make loud noises or otherwise disturb others in school.

I have the responsibility to learn about myself and others in this school. This means that I will strive to understand myself and others, and that I will not interrupt or punish others who express their thoughts or feelings.

I have the responsibility to study, to strive to do my best to learn the basic skills of reading, writing, arithmetic, and self-expression, to make best use of all that my school offers. I have the responsibility not to interfere in others' learning, and to let others know when their behavior is interfering with my rights.

I have the responsibility to learn self-control in this school; this means that I will strive to exercise my rights without denying the same rights to others. I will expect to be corrected when I do abuse the rights of others as they shall be corrected if my rights are abused.

I have the responsibility to make my school, my community, my state, and my country each one that I can be proud of.

I have the responsibility to protect my rights and the rights of all others by exercising my full responsibilities in all circumstances.

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*Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs, but sometimes he feels that there really is another way, if only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it.*

—A.A. Milne, *Winnie-the-Pooh*

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