Respect Rap

Lesson Timeframe
25-30 mins

Materials
- Whiteboard and marker
- 1 piece of large construction paper/poster board and crayons/markers for each small group
- Respect poster (optional)

Share
In a whole group, explain that respect is treating people, places, and things with kindness. Think about how you treat others. When you respect them and show them kindness, they feel happier and will want to be around you more often! Discuss HOW we show respect for others: kind words/gestures, helping others, etc. Write answers down on whiteboard/butcher paper if desired.

Inspire
Introduce the concept of a rap: A rap is merely a rhyme set to a specific beat. To demonstrate this concept, sing something similar to Humpty Dumpty. If possible, write the familiar nursery rhyme down on a whiteboard or large piece of paper. Circle the end words, emphasizing how they RHYME. Each group will create a rap at least 6-8 lines long to illustrate HOW to show respect for others. As a whole group, brainstorm different keywords that show respect: kind, love, nice, help, etc. Provide examples of how to create the rap: I show respect when I come in! I take off my shoes and put them in the bin! Explain that our words have power. How we speak to others should always demonstrate respect and kindness.

Empower
Divide your large group into two small groups based on grades and/or ages: 4-8 (PK-2nd grade) and 9-12 (3rd-6th grade).

For the younger group: Write the following sentence starters on your Poster Board (each sentence should be on a new line).
1. I show respect when I ________. I use ________ words and I ________. (Encourage rhyming words.)
2. I show respect by ________. My actions are ________. (These two endings should rhyme as well.)
3. Respect is kind because ________. Let's show respect when ________. (Use rhyming words again.)

Review the definition of respect again to help increase understanding.

For the older group: Have the participants work together to create their respect rap. Encourage their endings to rhyme. Each small group will share their rap with the whole group. Hang up the raps if there is room.

Reflect
After the musical component is finished, guide a whole group conversation around RESPECT.

- What is Respect?
- How do we show respect with our words? with our actions?
- How can our words and actions disrespect someone? What can we do if we hurt their feelings?