

**Learning Objective:** To teach children that some rules are inflexible, while other rules can be changed

**Skill:** Respect, creating consensus

Ask the group, "What does it mean to follow rules? What would happen if people didn't follow them?" Brainstorm ideas and write them on the blackboard or a large sheet of paper.

Tell them:

*Rules tell us how to behave. Some rules should always be followed so that people don't get hurt or have something bad happen. "Don't steal," "Don't cheat," and "Tell the truth" are all rules that should always be followed. In a group like this one, there are certain rules that we follow so that everyone can get along. Some of the rules are: don't interrupt others, don't use bad language, and don't say things that will be hurtful to others. If we didn't have these rules, it would be very hard for us to get along.*

*Other rules are more flexible. If your bedtime is 9:30, your mom might "bend" the rule and let you stay up later sometimes. Rules can only be bent if no one gets hurt or suffers as a result. In our group, we have certain rules that are more flexible too. For example, if we do an activity that people don't like, we may be able to change it the next time.*

Ask the children which of the following rules must always be kept and which can be changed sometimes. Have them give the reasons for their choices.

- Don't hit anyone in anger.
- Eat a balanced meal.
- Keep your room neat.
- Don't talk behind people's backs.
- Listen to the teacher.
- Make your bed every morning.

Children can offer other rules from home and school, and tell why these rules should always be kept or can sometimes be bent.