



TOUGH COOKIES

Never cut corners.

Elena's school is holding a bake sale to raise money for a spring concert. She has a lot of cookies left over from the bake sale. That's because the cookies tasted awful! Elena, who left out a few ingredients from her recipe, quickly learns that she shouldn't have cut corners. She tries a new recipe from Warren that sells like hot cakes.

Discipline and practice can lead to success.

Ask kids: Think of a time when you went the extra mile to help someone or learn something new. How did that feel, and how did things turn out? Why is it important that businesses do things well and not cut corners?

Encourage kids to do small things right.

Warren advises kids that doing little things right each day can help make big things happen. For instance, studying every day will help you do better in school. Exercising every day helps keep your body healthy. Have kids make a list of other small things they can do each day that will make a big difference in the long run.

Activities:

1. Ask kids to think about a time when cut corners like Elena or tried to do something too fast. Did they rush through homework or chores? Miss practice before a school concert? Skip an important step in a science experiment? Have them write down their mistakes and then explain what the experience taught them. What advice would they give to someone else who was going to make a similar mistake?
2. Demonstrate firsthand the importance of following a plan. Divide the club into two groups. Present one group with a simple recipe for a ham and cheese sandwich. Present the other group with the same recipe minus one key step (e.g., *start with two slices of bread, add sliced ham*). Distribute ingredients and have the groups follow the recipes carefully. Then, have kids compare the sandwiches. Ask: Why aren't they the same? Did the recipe writer cut corners? What effect did that have?

Tip: Whether kids are learning a new math concept or a new sport, explain that discipline and practice are necessary to do well. Cutting corners may seem like it saves time or energy, but can lead to failure, as Elena learned. Point out examples where kids have shown discipline and it paid off.

