

(upfront)

THE KIDS' GOT CLASS

"Hello, my name is Lily. Nice to meet you," says the 6-year-old as she shakes her mother's hand, making eye contact. The introduction impresses Lily's mom, Ruth McLoughlin. Once she finishes her Manners Matter class at Busy Bees Studio, young Lily also will have learned table manners, how to write thank you cards and more.

Since September, Busy Bees Studio has been schooling children ages 3 to 12 in the finer points of proper social behavior. With a degree in psychology and a background in education and health care, Lisa Dupre opened the Sacramento business, on Fair Oaks Boulevard across

The Slobber Gobbler character teaches students not to talk when their mouths are full.

from Pavilions, to help young people successfully navigate the social world. According to

Dupre, parents teach their children the basics such as "please" and "thank you," but it's merely a foundation to build on. Her goal? For children, including her son, Coleman, 4, to leave positive, lasting impressions whenever they meet people. "Children want to be a part of the adult world, and this gives them a way to do that," she says.

Dupre and her staff make the lessons age-appropriate, interesting and easy. For example, the Slobber Gobbler character teaches students not to talk when their mouths are full. The Bee Polite series, for ages 3 to 5, focuses on one social skills concept per class. Manners Matter, for ages 6 to 9, teaches kids table manners and proper table talk. Social Self-Confidence, for ages 10 to 12, helps children become more comfortable during the awkward stage of adolescence.

In addition to etiquette, Busy Bees offers classes in yoga, music, art, dance, baby sign language, French, Spanish, kindergarten readiness and more, along with parent-support classes.

Six-week etiquette classes run \$75; new sessions begin in January. For more information, go to busybeesstudio.net or call (916) 564-2879. —Nicole Small



Busy Bees Studio

just the facts



57 Number of years the Sacramento Audubon Society has participated in the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count

156 Number of individual bird species counted in the Sacramento area during last year's Sacramento Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count

12/22/07 Date of this year's Sacramento Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count

Source: Sacramento Audubon Society