

Jamie's Story

Activity: Demonstrate why listening is crucial when a person is giving directions, by reading students “Jamie’s Story”. Direct them to listen carefully!

Jamie was excited about his/her first sitting job. This was an opportunity for him/her to earn some money and demonstrate that s/he was responsible. Jamie felt very confident about his/her abilities for taking care of children. S/he had a great deal of experience caring for younger siblings at home and felt s/he could handle almost any situation.

Jamie arrived 15 minutes early to begin his/her first job at the home of the Gable family. Mrs. Gable was impressed with Jamie’s attitude, appearance and self-confidence. Mrs. Gable explained to Jamie that one of her three children had a severe allergic reaction whenever he ate any food containing sugar as an ingredient. Mrs. Gable asked Jamie to listen very carefully to her instructions on how to resolve the problem if it occurred. First, she told Jamie to calm the child down, then give him two teaspoons of medicine and observe him for five minutes to see if it had a calming effect. She continued, “If the condition remained unchanged, give him two more teaspoons of medicine and call me immediately.”

Jamie had never been a good listener and today was no exception. As Mrs. Gable gave these important instructions, Jamie was playing with the children and petting the family dog.

The Gables finally departed and Jamie was on his/her own. The first several hours passed smoothly. Then, somehow, Johnny, who is allergic to sugar, found a candy bar and ate it. A short time later, Jamie heard a crash and other loud noises. Johnny was totally out of control, being destructive with his toys and behavior. Jamie tried to remember the sequence of directions he’d been given by Mrs. Gable on how to handle this situation, but could not.

Story adapted from an unknown source

