BLUEY EPISODE GUIDE

Verandah Santa

Grade 1 · Age 6

Episode Name	Verandah Santa
Season & Episode	Season 1, Episode 52
Age Group	Grade 1 (Age 6)
Key Concept	Kindness isn't a transaction — you don't earn it by being good first

ABOUT THIS EPISODE

Playing Verandah Santa, Bluey withholds a present from baby Socks — because Socks bit her and didn't say sorry. The logic is sound. The result is Socks, devastated, with no gift. Dad sits with Bluey and gently unpicks her reasoning. Bluey apologises. She gives Socks the present. Something shifts.

The episode doesn't say Bluey was wrong to feel hurt. It says hurt feelings and kindness aren't opposites.

WHY IT MATTERS (FOR PARENTS)

Bluey's logic is airtight by six-year-old standards: Socks bit me, she didn't apologise, so she doesn't get a present. It's fair. It's consistent. And it misses something that most adults still wrestle with: kindness isn't a transaction. You don't earn it by being good. Withholding it as punishment is a different thing — a human thing — but it's not the same as being kind.

Mum's line — "That's not the reason to be nice to people" — is one of the most important sentences in the entire series. Your child may not fully grasp it yet. Plant the seed anyway. This is the kind of idea that takes years to grow into, and the earlier the planting, the better.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (FOR YOUR CHILD)

1	*Bluey said she didn't give Socks a present because Socks bit her and didn't say sorry. Was that fair?*
2	*Mum said 'That's not the reason to be nice to people.' What do you think she meant?*
3	*Socks is just a baby — she doesn't understand about saying sorry yet. Does that change things?*
4	*Have you ever wanted to punish someone for being mean to you? What happened?*
5	*What's the real reason to be kind to people?*

AFTER THE EPISODE — ACTIVITIES & EXTENSIONS

Try one of these to keep the learning going:

- Talk about a time you were kind to someone even when they hadn't been kind to you. What made you do it? How did it feel? Let your child see that this is something you've had to choose — not something that comes automatically.
- Ask: 'Is there a difference between being kind because you want to, and being kind because you have to?' Don't resolve it. Both are worth exploring.
- Role-play the Verandah Santa scene: your child is Bluey, you're Dad. Let them argue Bluey's case. Really listen to it. Then gently ask Dad's question: 'But what's the reason to be nice to people?' See where they land.
- Ask question five together — 'What's the real reason to be kind?' — and write down or draw whatever answer your child gives. Keep it somewhere. Revisit it in a year and see if the answer has changed.

Tip for parents: This is the hardest concept in the Grade 1 guides, and it's worth being honest about that. If your child's answer to question five is 'because otherwise you get in trouble' or 'because it's the rules' — that's developmentally normal. The goal isn't to get to the right answer today. It's to start asking the question.