Applying the Golden Rule

‘Treat other people as you'd want to be treated in their situation.’
‘Do not treat others in a way you would not like to be treated yourself.’

Take a look at the letter below from a child asking for advice on how to use the Golden Rule.

Last week I was on a trip with three of my friends. I was put in charge of buying lunch and went to the shop. I wanted to do the right thing so I followed the Golden Rule.

My favourite sandwich is tuna mayonnaise so I bought tuna mayonnaise for everyone. However, when I handed out the sandwiches, Caroline said she would have preferred cheese, Emma said she didn’t like tuna, and Jacob said he was allergic to mayonnaise!

Where did I go wrong?

Yours sincerely,
Sam

Questions
1) Could you have done better than Sam?
2) What would you have done differently?
3) Did the Golden Rule not work, or was Sam not using it properly?

Activity: Write a reply to Sam's letter from a humanist explaining where she went wrong and how she might have used the Golden Rule differently.

Take a look at The Golden Rule information sheet to learn about how a humanist might think about the Golden Rule in a similar situation.

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