

Character Education

March 2014

Integrity

Define Integrity

- a. Having the inner strength to be truthful, trustworthy and honest in all things.
- b. Being honorable and having the determination to do the right thing even when others don't.
- c. Acting justly and honorably.

Literature Selections

Choose a book to read aloud and discuss.

1. "The Emperor's New Clothes" by Hans Christian Andersen
2. "The Empty Pot" by Demi
3. "The Magic Fan" by Keith Baker
4. "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" by Judith Viorst
5. "Ruby the Copycat" by Peggy Rathman

Activities

Ice Breaker/Demonstration: Glass of Water/Chlorine

"You Choose" *Create statements (or use the scenarios from the Integrity match). Read them aloud & have children choose to stand under a 'yes' sign or a 'no' sign, declaring whether they think the person in the story is showing integrity (yes) or not (no).*

Integrity match

Honesty worksheet

Closing

ICE BREAKER

Items needed: 3 drinking glasses, water, bleach, food coloring

Before you start fill 2 glasses about two thirds full of water. Fill the third glass half full with chlorine. (try not to have the children see you do this, do before you go into the class.)

Show the two glasses of water and tell everyone that they represents two friends. Make up a story about these two friends with one of the friends being dishonest. Each time you tell something that this friend did that was dishonest like lying add a drop of food coloring to the water. Do not stir let the drop slowly dissipate in the water. Point out that the first time the friend did something dishonest , the color didn't affect too much of the water, but each time the friend did more dishonest things the water became darker and cloudier, with the stain finally permeating the friends entire being, filling the friend with guilt. Meanwhile the other friend's glass remains pure and clean. Finally start telling how the stain glass friend wanted to change their ways and as you tell good things the friend did start adding the glass of bleach to the stain friends glass. Those watching will think that you are adding more water but they will be amazed as the colored water starts to fade. Eventually it will be almost completely clear.

QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY ARE:

1. If the friend had only been dishonest once, how much bleach would have been needed to clear it up? The sooner you clear up a lie or act of dishonesty, the better. The darker the water, the more drops of bleach, the more apologies it takes to clear up.
2. What does this tells us about the effects of dishonesty in our lives?
3. What are some steps you should take to make amends for an act of dishonesty?
 - a. recognize you have done something wrong
 - b. repair the relationship - apologize to the person
 - c. restore what you have damaged
 - d. resolve not to do it again.

Name _____

Integrity Match

Draw a line to the phrase which will complete each sentence to show integrity.

1. When I know something is wrong,

I do it anyway.

I do not do it.

2. When I say I will do something,

I keep my word.

I forget about it.

3. When someone asks me something,

I tell the truth.

I tell a lie.

4. When I know something will hurt another person's feelings,

I do not say it.

I say it anyway.

6. When I see someone stealing,

I steal also.

I tell a person who can help.

7. When I accidentally break something,

I blame someone else.

I take responsibility and try to fix it.

8. When someone tells me to do something that is wrong,

I tell them, "No."

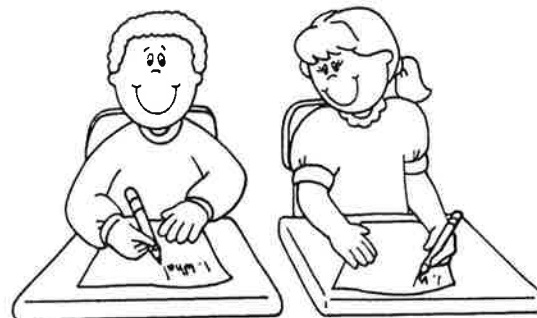
I say, "OK."

5. When I see someone cheating on a test,

I do my own work.

I cheat, too.

Note to Teacher: To make this worksheet appropriate for younger children, read the situations aloud and have students give oral responses.



May I Take It?

Read each situation. Place an X beside each example of stealing, a question mark beside each that is not an example of stealing but good judgement should be used before taking, and a check mark if it is okay to take.

Name _____

- _____ a coin found on the floor of the school bus
- _____ a pretty leaf on the ground in your grandparents' backyard
- _____ a wallet found in a parking lot in front of a store
- _____ a half-eaten candy bar that your brother left on the kitchen table
- _____ a stone found on a lake shore
- _____ a piece of cake from an uncut, decorated cake on the counter
- _____ a sweater found on the playground after school
- _____ a smashed, but clean, cupcake your friend is planning to throw away
- _____ a golf ball you find in the lake at the golf course
- _____ an egg from a bird's nest found at your school playground
- _____ an apple from the tree in your backyard
- _____ a few grapes from a fruit stand in the grocery store
- _____ a marble from a friend's marble collection when he's not looking
- _____ a coin that you found on the sidewalk
- _____ a dollar from your mom's purse for your lunch money
- _____ a coin found in the coin return slot in a telephone booth
- _____ your sister's pencil from her backpack
- _____ a stamp you found in your dad's desk that he plans to use to mail a letter to your grandmother
- _____ an extra dollar in change that a fast food cashier accidentally gives you
- _____ a ten-dollar bill your aunt offers as a gift
- _____ an orange from a neighbor's tree
- _____ a stick you found at a national park
- _____ a library book found on a bus stop bench
- _____ a flower blooming in a neighbor's yard

