



CHARACTER COUNTS!

Fairness Pillar

Activity Quickies

Upper Elementary Activities

It's In The Cards

People make judgments on first impressions. Example: you may assume someone is stuck-up because he doesn't talk to you or make eye contact, when he is really shy. To make better judgments about people we need to get to know them. Have students make trading cards using an index card and their picture. Glue their picture on the unlined side and write information about themselves on the lined side. Decorate card as desired, then laminate. Have students write 4 questions to ask someone to get to know them. Divide class in pairs and have them share the info. on their card and then have the other student ask their questions. Do this once a week until all youth have been paired up.

Source: Time to Enrich, & Developing Character When It Counts, 1999.

My Opinion

Students have opinions on current topics that are important to them and often feel no one is listening. Make a container labeled My Opinion Topics. During the month have students put in topics they would like to discuss. Once a month draw a slip(s) and give your students an opportunity to give their opinion. Have a podium set up and a

set amount of time that a student can speak to the topic. Encourage students to listen to their classmate's opinions with an open mind to better understand their point of view.

Source: Developing Character When It Counts, 1999.

A Master Gardener's Wisdom

Bring a small flowering plant to school and explain that you would like to share the plant with all of them. But you only have one plant. Ask them how you could share it fairly. You may need to remind them that flowering plants have seeds.

Source: Spotlight on Character: Plays That Show Character Counts!, 1999.

The Jury Is In

A jury's job is to make a fair decision. Have students work as a jury to decide the fairness of each statement. If the group can't agree you may try to convince them to change their minds based on your opinion. But, you must reach a consensus, meaning only one group judgment per statement. For each statement write agree or disagree & why.

1. An allowance should be based on doing chores around the house.
2. Sometimes promises have to be broken.
3. When sharing, everyone should get an equal amount.
4. If my friends can do something, then I should be able to; too.

Source: Missouri 4-H Show-Me Character All Stars

Lower Elementary Activities

Fairness is in the Acrostic

Have your students write Fairness vertically on a sheet of paper. Have students work in small groups and write an example of fairness that starts with each letter. Example:

Fairness doesn't mean equal.

Allow others to give their opinion.

It is fair to take turns.

Remember to play by the rules.

No one should try to be unfair.

Everyone should have the directions before they start.

Shh! You need to be quiet to listen to others.

Slices of a pie should be the same.

Source: More Good Ideas, Age 6-9, 2004.

Share a Song About Fairness

(Sung to the tune "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

Have students learn the song and in the second verse put in their own words.

Sharing, sharing, we can share,
While at school and everywhere.
Taking turns and listening, too.
Being fair in all we do.
Sharing, sharing, we can share,
While at school and everywhere.

Sharing, sharing we can share,
While at _____ and everywhere.
Taking turns and listening, too.
Being fair in all we do.
Sharing, sharing, we can share,
While at _____ and everywhere.

Source: Developing Character When It Counts, Grade K-1 1999.

I'll Cut, You Choose

Bring a pie, cake or bars and have the class decide a fair way to get pieces cut equally.

One way is to say, "I will cut, you choose your piece first." This will encourage the person cutting to cut the pieces equally.

Walk A Mile In My Shoes

Write "Walk a Mile In My Shoes" at the top of a length of bulletin board paper. Have each student trace his or her shoe on a piece of construction paper. Discuss the meaning of the statement "Don't judge someone until you have walked a mile in his shoes." Talk about the importance of trying to see another person's point of view. On their footprint have each student write what that statement means to them and display them on the bulletin board. Example of statements might be:
Live like me, See if you can think like me or
You can do all my homework, then you will see.

Source: Developing Character When It Counts, Grade2-3, 1999.

Fair Doesn't Mean Equal

That's not fair has been said by every child sooner or later because everyone does not get the same thing. Help your students learn how situations determine what is fair. Have students decide if the following situations are fair. Discuss each person's feelings in the statement.

School: 1. A child with special needs has a teacher's aide help them all day. 2. First graders get 10 minutes of homework a night and kindergartners don't have any.

Home: 1. Your older brother has a later bedtime than you do. 2. Your sister has to do more chores at home because she is older.

Source: Spotlight On Character: Plays That Show Character Counts!, Grade K-1, 1999.