



CHARACTER COUNTS!

Trustworthiness Pillar

Activity Quickies

Upper Elementary Activities

Trustworthy Friend Kit

Make a friendship kit to remind children of what it takes to be a trustworthy friend. Ask the students to label an envelope or ziplock baggie “Friendship Kit” and decorate it. Have them place the things on this list below inside the envelope. Cut out the list and put it in the friendship kit, too. Ask the children to take their friendship kit home and tell their family what each thing in the kit stands for.

Be a Trustworthy Friend

Tape-	Stick up for your friend.
Bandage-	Never let a friend do anything to harm himself or herself.
Button-	“Button your lips” and keep a secret for a friend.
Candy Heart-	Have the courage to do the right thing.
Word Card: Truth-	Remember to always speak the truth. Be honest and sincere with your friend.
Eraser-	Everyone makes mistakes. Forgive a friend’s mistakes.
Mint-	A trustworthy friend is worth a mint.

Source: Developing Character When It Counts – Grades 2-3, 1999

That’s The Spirit!

Part of trustworthiness is loyalty – to our friends, our families, and our communities.

Ask students how they can show loyalty to their school. Have students brainstorm a list of the traits that make your school special. Write this list on the board. Have students work individually or in small groups to write a cheer, chant, song, or poem that expresses loyalty to your school. To expand the activity, set aside a School Spirit Day, when students can dress in school colors and present their work to the class.

Source: Spotlight on Character, Plays That Show CHARACTER COUNTS! – Grade 6-8, 1999

Honesty Bumper Stickers

Have students create original bumper sticker designs promoting the value and importance of honesty in the lives of students. Discuss the meaning and implications of genuine honesty. Following the class discussion, instruct each student to concisely express his ideas about honesty in a slogan appropriate for a bumper sticker. Cut poster board into bumper sticker size and shape and distribute to students. Use colored markers, pencils, crayons, and/or paint to create the bumper stickers. Display the finished work throughout the school.

Source: Character Education Informational Handbook & Guide, 2002

Lower Elementary Activities

The Boy Who Cried “Wolf!”

Tell the children the story, *The Boy Who Cried, “Wolf!”*. (Summary: A young boy, for his own entertainment, makes believe and screams that a big wolf has come into the village. The people in the village are very alarmed at first. But after he pulls this stunt several times and no wolf is ever seen, the villagers begin to realize that he is just pretending. One day a mean wolf actually comes into the village. But this time when the boy cries out to forewarn the others, everyone knows that he is not trustworthy and they ignore him.)

Discuss the importance of telling the truth at all times. Use the following questions in your discussion: What happens if someone lies a lot? (Others stop believing you.) Why didn’t the people believe the boy when there really was a wolf? (Because his repeated lying made him untrustworthy) What is the best way to make sure people believe us all the time? (Always be honest.) Has this sort of thing ever happened to someone you know?

Source: Character Education Informational Handbook & Guide, 2002

A Chain of Trust

Tell children that being trustworthy involves being honest in the words we use and in the ways we act. Explain that honest words and actions build “A Chain of Trust”. To demonstrate this concept, give each child a 1” x 9” strip of paper. Have each child write one action he or she could do to demonstrate trustworthiness. (Younger students may dictate these to you while you write them on the strips.) Next, have the class sit in a circle. Begin by reading your example. Then

tape the ends of your strip together to form a circle. Ask the student on your right to share his or her idea. Then thread his or her strip of paper through yours and tape the ends together to form two connected paper links. Continue around the circle until each child has added a link, forming a paper chain. Tell the children that each act of trust helped to build a strong chain. Explain that broken links, like dishonest acts, can damage the chain of trust. Stress that it is important to try hard to be honest in our words and actions.

Source: Spotlight on Character: Plays That Show CHARACTER COUNTS – Grade K-1, 1999

The Bear and the Travelers by Aesop

Help children discover that a trustworthy person stands by his or her friend. Read aloud Aesop’s fable, “The Bear and the Travelers.” Then have the children work in groups of three to make paper bag or popsicle stick puppets and present the story in their own words.

The Bear and the Travelers

Two friends were traveling down the road together when suddenly a bear appeared. Before the bear even saw them, one friend ran to a tree by the side of the road, climbed up it as fast as he could, and hid in the branches. The other friend was not as nimble. All he could do was to throw himself on the ground and pretend to be dead. He had heard that a bear will not touch someone who is dead. He lay perfectly still and held his breath. Sure enough, the bear sniffed all around him and then went away.

When the coast was clear, the traveler climbed down from the tree and asked his friend, “What did the bear whisper to you when he put his mouth to your ear?”

His friend replied, “He told me never again to travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of danger.”

Lesson: Misfortune is a test of friendship.

Source: Developing Character When It Counts – Grades K-1, 1999