

CHARACTER EDUCATION

"Good Citizenship" Grades K-4

DEFINITION:

Treat others as you would like to be treated. Be respectful, show consideration for everyone, take pride in your school, and be loyal to others.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

- Brainstorm symbols and patriotic words about your country. Have students then draw pictures that represent what their country means to them. Have students add captions to their pictures.
- Have pairs of students practice how to appropriately welcome a new neighbor. Have students role play and share how to welcome a new neighbor. Point out that being friendly is an important part of showing good citizenship in your neighborhood.
- Invite a guest from your community who demonstrates good citizenship to speak to your class. Have students prepare questions to ask. After the speaker leaves, students list ways the speaker demonstrates good citizenship. Students could then show good citizenship by writing thank you notes to the speaker.
- Hold a mock election during election time.
- Create a laminated banner for a Good Citizenship Banner that has students' pictures on it. Write a citizenship goal in a write on/wipe off marker on the banner. As students display the goal during the week, write their names on the banner. Erase and change names and goals each week.
- Discuss ways of being a good citizen and friend through a Good Citizenship Chain. List ideas on the board. Have students choose one to write on a strip of paper. Connect the strips together by linking them to become a Good Citizenship Chain.
- Create good citizenship awards where students recognize one another when someone demonstrates good citizenship.
- Have students participate in creating rules for the classroom. Discuss why we have rules.
- Have students illustrate the character quality.
- Read a story/ biography that emphasize good citizenship.

- Role-playing with puppets where students demonstrate loyalty.
- Invite local authorities/ law enforcement to be "buddies" to your class.
- Hold a class discussion about heroes and good citizenship.
- Have students participate in a mock election where the class mascot/color is chosen.
- Have your class brainstorm a list of dos and don'ts for being a good citizen. What does it mean to be a good citizen? Ask for specific examples of each behavior they identify. Take these examples and turn them into role-play situations. Have students act them out themselves or use puppets. Role-play poor citizenship and good citizenship.
- Write on the board "To have good friends, you must be a good friend." Ask the children to explain that statement and to tell you why they either agree or disagree with it. Ask them to think of ways that good friends treat each other. List their answers on the board and discuss each one. Students can write or illustrate how they will be a good friend to others.
- Have students look for examples of friendship in magazines or make pictures of them. Then have them use the pictures to create a collage of friendship. Students may also contribute slogans or mottos about friendships. Divide the class into groups of four or five. Each group's task is to choose one group member to play the role of a new student in class. The new student's challenge is to try to gain acceptance into the group. The other members in the group will try to make the new child feel welcome. After the role-plays, discuss with the class how it felt to be new and how it felt to be part of the group. Discuss some of the different ways of joining a new group.
- Have students search for the most positive aspects of some very "unusual" people. The activity reinforces the idea that one can't always judge the quality of a person by his or her appearance; people can be appreciated for their differences. Before the lesson cut drawing paper into 2 inch squares. Give each student 3 squares. They will need to draw a person's head and neck on one piece of paper, draw a person's torso on another piece of paper, and draw the bottom part of their person on the last piece. Take up the pieces and distribute different pieces to the students. They will put the three parts together to create a unique person. Students will need to name their person and write special qualities of their unique person. What special qualities does this unique person have? What special talents does the person possess? What do you have in common with your new friend? How are you different? Students can write about their new friends and share them with the class.
- Use a book or newspaper to read about an outstanding citizen. List the characteristics of this person. Discuss what makes a person a person "outstanding".

SOURCES:

<http://www.education-world.com>

<http://www.goodcharacter.com>

Daily Character Education Activities, Grades 4-2 Carson-Dellosa, 2004

Character Education Ideas and Activities, Grades K-3 Carson-Dellosa, 1998

Jackson, Tom, M.Ed. *More Activities that Teach*. Red Rock Publishing, 2003.

Jackson, Tom M. Ed. *Still More Activities That Teach*. Red Rock Publishing, 2002.