

# CHARACTER EDUCATION

## "Integrity" Grades K-4

### DEFINITION:

Integrity is defined as being strong enough to do what you know is right. Integrity is also knowing the difference between right and wrong and choosing to do the right thing, even when it is difficult.

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

- Discuss the phrase, "honesty is the best policy" or "telling the truth".
- Select a book to read to students where characters exhibit the trait of "integrity." (Ask the campus librarian for suggestions.)
- Make posters that illustrate people or actions doing the right thing.
- Have students define an "Honor Pledge".
  - Definition: A promise voluntarily made by students that they will not commit any act of academic dishonesty (cheating).
  - Create a class honor pledge and invite all class members to sign it. o Post in the classroom.
- Ask students to consider whether or not they would want a friend to have integrity? How would they know if a friend had integrity?
- Lead students in the "Yes/No" Game
  - Create "yes" and "no" signs.
  - Place masking tape on the floor to divide the area into 2 sections. Place a sign in each section, with yes on one side and no on the other.
  - Give students examples of situations in which someone's integrity is tested and have them decide what they would do in each situation. Example: Matt and his friends went to the movies. His friends sneaked in the side door without paying. Should Matt sneak in, too?
- Have students identify others in the class who follow rules, who are kind to others, who do not cheat, etc...
- Assist student in designing Integrity Pennants by thinking of sentences that reflect integrity. Examples might be "Always do your best", "Believe in yourself", "Do the right thing," etc.

- Have students discuss challenging themselves to always do what is right.
  - Give each child a sentence strip, and have them write a sentence naming something that's "the right thing to do".
  - Have students attach the statement to their desks. Students receive stickers when they are observed meeting the challenge.
  
- Ask students to write each letter from the words "show integrity" on separate sheets of construction paper (filling the whole sheet with each letter). Have students take turns forming new words with the letters. Have students use each new word into a sentence. Example: I grin when I show integrity.
  
- Have students write skits and role play the trait of integrity.
  
- Define integrity for students. Include honesty, responsibility, and doing what is right.
  - Give each child a piece of construction paper.
  - Have them fold the paper once vertically then horizontally to make a "book". The cover should say "Integrity".
  - On each page write a different trait of integrity, illustrate it, and dictate a sentence about the heading.
  - Share the books with each other in class.
  
- Sing the "Integrity Song"; sing to the tune of "Three Blind Mice." Integrity, integrity. Do what is right, do what is right. Be honest and truthful. Know right from wrong. Be the best you can be as it says in this song. You know what is right, be the best you can be. Integrity, integrity.
  
- Give each child construction paper and have them fold it in half. In the first section, have them illustrate a person doing something that does not show integrity. Beside that picture, have them illustrate a scene of integrity. An example would be the first person hitting others while the second person treats others kindly.
  
- Create a "Bee" the Best bulletin board with each child's picture. Every time a child is "caught" showing integrity, the child receives a "bee" sticker by his/her picture.
  
- Play the game, "Integrity Match." Have students tell how they will respond to the following statements:
  - When I know something is wrong... When I say I will do something... When someone asks me something...
  - When I know something will hurt another... When I see someone cheating ...
  - When I see someone stealing...
  
- Bring a newspaper to school. Organize into small groups to look through the newspaper. Find the names of men, women, or children whom you all agree are worthy of respect. Circle the article. Have students give reasons why they admire the people their group selected.

- Define a hero as "a respected person noted for courage and integrity." A hero may be a man or a woman who has many virtues. Have students write a short paragraph that opens like this: "My hero is..." Ask students to think about their family or special friends.
- Ask students to imagine that they are a respected grandparent who has lived long and who has had many experiences. What kind of advice would he/she give their grandchildren about important matters like safety, school or friendship? How would the advice reflect the trait of integrity?

**Sources:**

Character Education. Greensboro, North Carolina: Carson-Dellosa Publishing Company, Inc.

Barclay Lipson, Greta Ed. D. Manners, Please! Carthage, Illinois: Teaching and Learning Company, 1995.

[www.goodcharacter.com](http://www.goodcharacter.com)