



Celebrate Good Character

CHARACTER is who a person is on the inside. A person's beliefs and actions show others his or her character. Respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, perseverance, fairness, and caring, are qualities of good character. Character is who we are.

Activity 1

Teach your child that **CHARACTER** describes a person's qualities, thoughts, and actions. Explain that good character includes many traits such as being kind, honest, and respectful. Tell your child that having good character is definitely worth celebrating! With your child, choose a positive character quality and have fun focusing on it. You could play a game to celebrate good SPORTSMANSHIP, or plan a special meal to use your GOOD MANNERS. Working together to make a new recipe could spotlight OPEN-MINDEDNESS, COOPERATION, and SHARING. Have fun reinforcing important qualities that will help your child EXCEL.

Activity 2

Review the meaning of character with your child. Read and discuss the following quote with your child. "**Character is what you are in the dark.**" Consider turning the lights out and trying to look at a storybook together to illustrate how hard it is to see in the dark. Explain that "character" describes who a person is and what he or she does, even when no one will see. Encourage your child to choose the right, even when no one is watching.

Activity 3

Explain that many different qualities combine to shape a person's character. Make a chart together highlighting different strengths your family values. You could use a word, your child's name, or your family's last name as an outline. Hang the chart in your home as a family statement. (Example below)

C - Courage
H - Honesty
A - Attitude
R - Respect
A - Acceptance
C - Courtesy
T - Trust
E - Excellence
R - Responsibility

Activity 4

Discuss the following quote by Booker T. Washington with your child: "**Character, not circumstance, makes the person.**" Teach your child that Booker T. Washington overcame many challenges on his way to becoming a respected educator and author. He showed self-respect and perseverance even though he was born into slavery and was not allowed to go to school as a young boy. He believed, and later proved, that good character could conquer his early trials. As an extended activity, help your child research other people throughout history who set an example of good character for others to follow.

Activity 5

Teach your child that good character is so important, it can be the difference between failure and success. Explain that if he or she is TRUSTWORTHY and RESPONSIBLE, CARES about and shows GRATITUDE to others, and strives for EXCELLENCE with COURAGE and PERSEVERANCE, there is no way he or she can fail. Good character is a key that will open the door to success, now and in the future.