



## Citizenship

**CITIZENSHIP** means being a loyal member of a group, community, and/or country.

### Activity 1

Discuss the meaning of **CITIZENSHIP** with your child. Explain that citizenship means being a member of a community and/or country. Discuss how good citizens obey laws, protect the environment, and try to make their community a better place. Teach your child that being a citizen of the United States affords its citizens with many rights and privileges, as well as responsibilities. Discuss what is meant by the rights of “*life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness*,” as written in the *Declaration of Independence*. Ask your child what would be the three most important rights he or she would include in a *Family Bill of Rights*. Ask your child if he or she would help write a *Family Bill of Rights* for the entire family to follow.

### Activity 2

Together with your child, list some of the benefits your community provides that help to keep your family safe and healthy. (Police, ambulance service, fire department, etc.) Help your child make a list of emergency phone numbers to post near the telephone at home. Explain emergency procedures that your child should follow so that he or she is prepared if ever they are needed. Ask your child to inform other family members where to locate important contact information.

### Activity 3

Share with your child the following quote by John F. Kennedy: “*Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.*” Discuss how it relates to being a good citizen. Together with your child, identify responsibilities that a good citizen displays. Tell your child about things you have done and are doing to be a good citizen. Ask your child what he or she is willing to do for his or her country.

### Activity 4

Discuss with your child how being a veteran shows good citizenship. Explain that a veteran is a person who has been in the armed services, especially during a war. Discuss why veterans deserve special attention. Talk about how and why serving one's country is a display of good citizenship. Help your child identify veterans in your community. Together, make a list of things to do that recognizes their service. Examples could include writing a letter, creating a poster or sign, making a small gift, baking some cookies, etc. Take the time to do one of the actions listed and deliver it to a veteran with a thank you note, which expresses appreciation for being a great citizen.

### Activity 5

Encourage your child to be a good citizen by learning more about our nation. Play a guessing game with your child by asking questions such as: Why is the American flag red, white and blue? Why does it have stars and stripes? How many are there? Who is the leader of our country? How old does a citizen have to be to vote? What are the main branches of government? What does the liberty bell stand for? Think of other questions to ask that pertain to our nation. If necessary, help your child discover the answers by using resources such as the Internet or research books.