



## Resourcefulness

**RESOURCEFULNESS** means to act effectively or imaginatively, especially in difficult situations.

### Activity 1

Tell your child that being **RESOURCEFUL** means using whatever tools and materials are on hand to solve a problem. Have fun together thinking of imaginative ways to overcome the following problems:

- 1) *We don't have a flowerpot. What other container could we plant our seeds in?* (Bottles, paper cups, cans, milk cartons, etc.)
- 2) *We are out of chocolate chips. What else could we add to our cookie dough?* (Chop up a candy bar, nuts, Skittles, etc.)
- 3) *There is a hole in your backpack. What can we use to fix it?* (Sew it with needle and thread, use safety pins, staples, tape, etc.)

Be positive and encouraging as you discuss the pros and cons of the different ideas. Teach your child that when challenges occur, creative thinking can help him or her find answers and solutions.

### Activity 2

Explain that people are resourceful when they use their imaginations to think of different ways to solve problems or develop new creations. Encourage your child's creativity and resourcefulness with a challenge to create something from old newspapers that could provide shade from the sun. Ask questions that aid creativity such as: *What could we make that would shade us from the sunshine?* (Hats, umbrellas, tents, etc.) *How could we make the newspaper stay together?* (Twist it, tape it, glue it, etc.) Praise your child's imaginative ideas and creative efforts. If possible, display the finished project.

### Activity 3

Read and discuss the following quote by Theodore Roosevelt: "*Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, 'Certainly I can!' Then get busy and find out how to do it.*" Explain that the quote means that people can succeed by combining a positive attitude with resourcefulness. Ask your child to imagine that he or she has agreed to collect cans for recycling in the community. Ask: *What could you do to get people involved?* (Draw posters to publicize, gather cans in the park, prepare a box to hold cans in your classroom, etc.) *Who could you ask to help you?* (Parents, teachers, classmates, etc.) *Where could you get more information?* (Library, Internet, parents, etc.) Tell your child that resourceful people focus on solutions, rather than problems.

### Activity 4

Explain that when people are resourceful, they use whatever tools or materials are around to accomplish their goal. Brainstorm together with your child to identify ways to build a birdfeeder out of items you have on hand. Look for ways to recycle or reuse materials such as attaching a plastic tray on a broomstick or hanging a plate on a tree branch using old shoelaces. Encourage your child's creativity with positive phrases such as "That's a terrific idea!" "Great thinking — let's try it out!" "That's very ingenious!"

### Activity 5

Practice thinking resourcefully by choosing a few items you have in your home such as paper clips, a fork, a piece of cardboard, or an old blanket. Use your imaginations to think of different ways the items could be used. For example, ask your child what you could do with a box of paper clips. Ideas include: Attach them together to make a necklace, shape them into a ring, bend them into the shapes of letters, etc. Encourage imaginative thought and praise inventive efforts. Explain that as your child develops resourcefulness, he or she is becoming more independent and capable.