

Trustworthiness

TRUSTWORTHINESS means being honest, reliable, and truthful.

LESSON 1

Read the definition of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Explain that a trustworthy person keeps promises and would not intentionally cause harm. Write the following key words on the board: **1) Honest, 2) Reliable, 3) Truthful, 4) Keeps Promises, and 5) Not intentionally cause harm.** Ask students to answer the following questions and identify which principles of trustworthy behavior either apply or are missing.

- **Would you trust a friend who promised to pay you one million dollars if you let him or her copy your homework?** (1, 2, 3, and 4: dishonest, unreliable and couldn't keep the promise.)
- **Would you trust your friend who accidentally broke your pencil, apologized, and offered to bring you a new one?** (1, 2, 3, and 5: showed honesty and truthfulness by telling you, did not intentionally break it.)
- **Would you trust a neighbor to borrow your bike if you had seen him deliberately break someone else's bicycle?** (3, 4, and 5: not truthful, might intentionally damage your bike.)
- **Would you trust a classmate who likes to gossip and doesn't keep secrets?** (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5: gossiping breaks every rule of being trustworthy.)

As time allows, ask students to explain their answers. Ask students to try to apply this thought process to their actions to build a foundation of trustworthiness in their lives.

[*School/Home Link*](#) Ask students to talk to a family member about being trustworthy.

LESSON 2

Review the meaning of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Tell students to pretend they each have one hundred dollars. Ask students to write the names of three people they would trust to hold it for them and why they trust those people. Read the following statements and instruct students to raise their hands if it is a good reason to trust them. Read: **1) I trust them because of where they live. 2) I trust them because they lied to me. 3) I trust them because they eat jellybeans. 4) I trust them because they have always told me the truth. 5) I trust them because they can sing. 6) I trust them because they are my friends.** Emphasize that they should place their trust in someone who is honest and truthful in all situations. Ask students to answer the following question: **Could someone trust YOU to hold a hundred dollars?** Ask them to explain why or why not.

[*School/Home Link*](#) Ask students to talk with a family member about placing trust in people who are honest.

LESSON 3

Review the meaning of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Read: **Imagine what it would be like if everyone in the whole world was trustworthy. No one would have to lock their doors, there would be no need for metal detectors at airports, everyone would obey all the traffic laws, gas stations would operate on the honor system, banks could leave their safes unlocked, etc. It is fun to think of how wonderful the world would be if everyone were trustworthy. Invite children to describe a day at school if everyone was trustworthy.** As time allows, have them draw or write their ideas on a piece of paper.

[*School/Home Link*](#) Ask students to imagine with a family member what the world would be like if everyone was trustworthy.

LESSON 4

Review the meaning of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Read: **Sam and Kara have the job of organizing classroom supplies. At the end of the day they are expected to count supplies and place them in the correct boxes. Sam broke two glass jars and blamed it on Kara. Kara told the teacher she did not break the jars. When further questioned by the teacher, Sam replied, "I didn't mean to break the jars. It was an accident. I blamed Kara because I was afraid I would be in trouble."** Ask students to tell what they would have done in that situation. As time allows, have the class rewrite the story portraying Sam as a trustworthy person.

[*School/Home Link*](#) Ask students to share their rewritten story with a family member and explain what being trustworthy means.

LESSON 5

Review the meaning of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Read: **When you grow up, you will look for a job. Employers look for trustworthy people. What are the characteristics of a trustworthy person?** Call on students to answer the question and list them on the board under the heading: **Trustworthy.** Examples include: being dependable, honest, reliable, truthful, having integrity, etc. Emphasize that trustworthiness is a quality that will help them now, and also when they are ready to get a job. [*School/Home Link*](#) Ask students to talk with a family member about the importance of trustworthiness in their employment.

Louisiana Content Standards and Grade Level Expectations

ELA-1-E6, ELA-4-E2, ELA-4-E5, ELA-4-E7, ELA-3-E3, ELA-7-E1, ELA-7-E2, ELA-7-E4