

# Trustworthiness

**TRUSTWORTHINESS** means being honest, reliable, and truthful.

## LESSON 1

Tell students they will learn about the good character quality of **TRUSTWORTHINESS** this week. Read the meaning of trustworthiness. Explain that a trustworthy person is honest and tells the truth. Use the following nursery rhyme to teach trustworthiness. *Little Boy Blue come blow your horn, with the sheep in the meadow and the cows in the corn. Where is the little boy who looks after the sheep? He is under the haystack fast asleep.* Question students about the rhyme by asking the following questions: *What was Little Boy Blue's job?* (He was supposed to look after the sheep.) *Did he do his job?* (No because he was sleeping under the haystack.) *Was Little Boy Blue trustworthy? Why or why not?* (No, because he took a nap instead of watching the sheep.) Encourage students not to act like Little Boy Blue and to be trustworthy when given a job.

*School/Home Link* Tell students to talk about the rhyme of Little Boy Blue as an example of someone who was not trustworthy.

## LESSON 2

Review the meaning of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Ask students to recall the rhyme, *Little Boy Blue*, from yesterday and review reasons why Little Boy Blue was not trustworthy. Call on students to tell what Little Boy Blue should have done to show he was trustworthy. (He could have watched the sheep as he was supposed to.) Ask students how they can show trustworthiness at school and home. Record student responses on the board or chart. Examples could include: 1) Always keep your promise. 2) Return things that you use. 3) Ask before you take something. 4) Admit when you do something wrong. 5) Always tell the truth. 6) Do what you are supposed to do. Tell students to show trustworthiness today by doing the things listed on the board.

*School/Home Link* Tell students to tell a family member ways to show trustworthiness at home and at school.

## LESSON 3

Review the meaning of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Emphasize that a trustworthy person is someone who will not hurt you with unkind words or actions. Brainstorm with students to think of groups of people they believe to be trustworthy. Examples could include: teachers, police officers, doctors, etc. Write the heading **Trustworthy People** on the board and record student responses under it. As time allows, have students tell why they feel each group is trustworthy.

*School/Home Link* Tell students to ask a family member how they feel when you are being honest.

## LESSON 4

Review the meaning of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Emphasize that being trustworthy means being honest, keeping promises and not harming others. Read the following situations to demonstrate the importance of being trustworthy. Read: **If Roger tells his mom he'll make his bed before going to school, and he does it, she'll know she can trust him. If he tells his teacher he'll bring a pencil to school each day, and he does, the teacher knows he can be trusted. By doing what he said he'll do, Roger has earned his mom's and teacher's trust. Ask students to think of their own actions.** Tell students to raise their hands if they feel they are trustworthy. Invite several students to tell why.

*School/Home Link* Tell students to find out from a family member the things that would let them know they could be trusted.

## LESSON 5

Review the meaning of **TRUSTWORTHINESS**. Ask students to reflect on actions that are opposite of being trustworthy, such as cheating, being dishonest, or untruthful. Write these two statements on the board: Lying is wrong because... Stealing is wrong because... Call on 2-3 students to explain why that behavior is wrong by completing one of the statements. As time allows, invite additional students to share their ideas.

*School/Home Link* Tell students to ask a family member why lying and stealing are wrong, and discuss consequences for untrustworthy behavior.