



Loyalty

LOYALTY means being true to someone or something.

LOYALTY shows love for one's country.

Activity 1

Explain to your child that **LOYALTY** means being true to someone or something. Emphasize that a loyal person is dependable and reliable. With your child, think of different organizations that he or she could belong to and be a loyal member. (Sport teams, organizations, clubs, etc.) Explain while there are many groups that your child may belong to, his or her family is the first and most important group. Share how happy you were when your child joined your family. Discuss how your family can be loyal to each other by supporting, protecting, helping, and loving one another. Celebrate being a family by telling a story from your family history.

Activity 2

Ask your child to tell you why people say: *"Dogs are a man's best friend."* Explain that dogs are loyal to their owners and can help them in many ways. Have fun talking together about the interesting ways dogs are loyal to their owners. Examples could include:

- Service dogs help people with physical disabilities and can be taught to open and close doors, turn lights on and off, and even pull a wheelchair.
- Guide dogs lead the blind, hearing dogs help their deaf owners, and some dogs can alert people when they are about to have a seizure.
- Search and Rescue dogs help people who are trapped or lost.
- Specially trained dogs help police by sniffing out drugs or explosives.

Together observe how dogs show loyalty to their masters.

Activity 3

Explain to your child that loyalty means to be true to someone, no matter what anyone else says or does. Ask your child about the expression "true blue" as another way of saying "loyal". Explain that the phrase comes from long ago when a blue fabric dye was created that was so permanent, it would not fade at all when it was washed. It was called "true blue". Discuss with your child how the term "true blue" can be used to describe a friend. Help your child determine if his or her friends are considered to be "true blue" and loyal friends. Together decide why or why not. Encourage your child to be a "true blue" and loyal friend and to seek friends that are "true blue" through and through!

Activity 4

Teach your child about a "coat of arms," which originated long ago when soldiers marked their shields with a color or picture that identified them as a member of a specific army. Explain that as time went on, people began creating a coat of arms, which identified people who belonged to individual families. Displaying the coat of arms demonstrated family loyalty. Different pictures or colors were used to highlight specific strengths. (Examples: a holly leaf meant truth, apples signified peace, and the color blue represented loyalty) With your child, design your own coat of arms that reinforces your family values.

Activity 5

Talk to your child about what it means to be a loyal friend. Ask him or her to describe how a loyal and trustworthy person would act if:

- Your friend had a lead part in the school play but you didn't get selected, even though you practiced hard to get a part in the play.
- At recess, you observe one of your friends being bullied by other kids.
- Your friend's pet was missing.

Ask your child what the best response would be if he or she knew his or her friend was doing something bad that would harm him or her or someone else. Explain that being loyal does not mean that your child should lie for his or her friend. True and loyal friends help each other to be their best.