

# Fairness

(January Parent Edition)

**Definition of Fairness:**

**A fair person treats others equally, takes turns, plays by the rules, and is open-minded.**

(Additional info for parents: Fairness involves the ability to consider differing viewpoints and to support consistent and appropriate consequences when imposing punishments. Fairness implies adherence to a standard of rightness or lawfulness without reference to one's own feelings or inclinations. People of character are individuals who believe in and promote the quality of fairness.)

**Quotes:**

“All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have equal opportunity to develop our talents.”

-John. F. Kennedy



“It is easy to be popular. It is not easy to be just.”

-Rose Bird

“Fairness is what justice really is.”

-Justice Potter Stewart

“Justice is truth in action.”

-Benjamin Disraeli

**Discussion Starters:**

- Discuss the following scenario with your child: You go to the store and pay the clerk for your purchase. When you get home, you discover that you had received too much change. What is the fair thing to do?
- Think of some people you know who were treated fairly (unfairly) and discuss what could have been done to change the situation.
- Part of being fair is trying to see things as others see them. When we step into our friends' shoes, we notice that they may not see things the same way we do. Fair people know that different people see things differently and it affects the way they feel. Can you think of a time when you were treated unfairly? Or was there a time when you didn't treat someone else fairly?
- Talk with your child about situations where fairness requires taking turns.
- Ask your child if the rules for him/her should be the same as the rules for adults.
- What would be a fair way to share the chores in your household? Make a list so that everyone knows what his/her fair share of the work will be.

**Resources:**

- Good Ideas to Help Young People Develop Good Character* available in every school.
- [www.charactercounts.org](http://www.charactercounts.org)
- I Am Rosa Parks* by Rosa Parks with Jim Hasking (Dial, 1997)
- Happy Birthday Martin Luther King* by Jean Marzollo (Scholastic, 1993)
- The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins (Greenwillow, 1986)
- Spotty* by Margaret Rey (Houghton Mifflin, 1997).

