

Trustworthiness (Honesty)

(March Parent Edition)

Definition of Trustworthiness:

A person who is trustworthy lives with integrity and is honest, reliable, and loyal. (Additional info for parents: Trustworthy is being honest and telling the truth, keeping one's word, and doing what is right, even if it is hard to do.)

Quotes:

“Be slow to fall into friendship, but when you have, be firm and constant in that friendship.”

-Socrates

“If someone says something unkind about you, live your life so that no one will believe it.”

-Anonymous

“Never ruin an apology with an excuse.”

-Kimberly Johnson

“Honesty is the best policy.”

-Cervantes



Discussion Starters:

- Discuss these scenarios with your child—(Your friend wears a new shirt and asks you if you like it? You don't. What do you say? You need to buy your dad a birthday present, but you don't have enough money. Then you find a wallet with \$20 in it—and a license. What do you do? Your friend brings a weapon to school, shows it to you saying, “Don't tell anyone.” What should you do?)
- Brainstorm ways that students can show honesty in school, at home, or in their community.
- Talk about an Honesty Chain (paper chain) and explain how when a person is honest, s/he builds trust. This trust is built with many delicate links like the links of a paper chain. Dishonest acts are like broken links in the chain of trust between people.
- Your brother takes money from your mother's wallet. When Mom asks what happened, your brother says, “I didn't take it.” He avoids looking at you. What might you say and why? Should you cover for him, stay silent, or tell?
- Who do you know who is trustworthy? What does that person do or say that makes you know they are trustworthy?
- Talk about a time when you weren't trustworthy. How did you feel? What did you do?
- Discuss the story about the boy who cried wolf with your child. Was that character trustworthy or untrustworthy?

Resources:

- Good Ideas to Help Young People Develop Good Character* available in every school.
- www.charactercounts.org and www.k12.hi.us/~mkunimit/page13.htm (character values)
- And To Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street* by Dr. Seuss (Random House, 1997)
- A Day's Work* by Eve Bunting (Clarion Books, 1994)