

Citizenship

(October Parent Edition)

Definition of Citizenship:

A good citizen does his/her share, contributes to the community, obeys rules and laws, respects authority, and cooperates with others. Citizenship is being a person who is involved in trying to make the classroom, the playground, the school, their community and the world a better place. (Additional info for parents: People of character take steps to address needs that are present around them and so are considered to be good citizens.)

Quotes:



“This country (school) will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.”

-Theodore Roosevelt

“I will act as if what I do makes a difference.”

-William James

“Service to one another is the rent we pay for taking up space on earth.”

-Marian Wright Edelman

“Life’s most persistent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Discussion Starters:

- Think of fairy tale characters who have demonstrated good citizenship (The elves who helped the shoemaker, the woodcutter who saved Red Riding Hood, and the third pig who sheltered his brothers).
- Ask your child to discuss why it is so important that citizens vote during an election.
- Who is someone you know who has shown good citizenship? Look in the newspaper or magazines for examples.
- Do you think you’re a good citizen? Why or why not?
- What are some ways that members of our family show good citizenship?
- Discuss the Pledge of Allegiance and what it means to be a citizen of the United States.
- Sing the national anthem with your family and explain its significance.
- Tell your child about the importance of voting and take him/her along with you to the polls on Election Day.
- Discuss John F. Kennedy’s famous quote, “Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.”



Resources:

- www.charactercounts.org
- www.kidsvotingusa.org
- America Votes: How Our President is Elected* (available for \$9.95 from www.kidscanpress.com)