



Parents Make a Difference

February's Character Trait: **Citizenship**

This page includes ideas for building and reinforcing positive character in your child. Parents set the tone and lead by example. Parents do make a difference. Take advantage of your influence and spend time with your children talking about the character traits you value and look for in others.



Citizenship: *Be an informed, responsible and caring participant in your community.*

Good citizens...

Care about others.

Share their time and skills with the community to make it better, cleaner and safer.

Conserve resources by practicing the three R's: Reduce. Re-use. Recycle.

Stay informed on government issues and voice their opinions by voting.



Ideas for Teaching **Citizenship at Home**

- Discuss ways you can show citizenship at home and consider a weekly "Good Citizen" award for the best effort. For example: cleaning up without being told, helping a sibling with homework, letting someone else be first, recycling trash, etc.
- Initiate a neighborhood clean up. Take a trash bag and go for a walk in your neighborhood. Pick up all of the discarded trash along the way. Good exercise and community service all in one!
- Make a "citizen sandwich" with your child to demonstrate how doing your part and working together is an essential ingredient for good citizenship. Each person gets one slice of bread and can only use one hand. The bread can not be folded and must be cut to make a sandwich. It may be a little messy, but should give your child a *taste* of citizenship.
- Look for opportunities to volunteer together as a family. Websites such as servenet.org and idealist.org offer ideas for ways families can make a difference.

"You are on the pathway to a successful life when you do more for your community than your community does for you." ~Author Unknown