



Parents Make a Difference

November's Character Trait: **HONESTY**

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.



One day, a four-year old named Justin came running out of the bathroom to tell his mom that he had dropped his toothbrush in the toilet. His mom fished it out and threw it in the trash. Justin stood there thinking for a moment then ran to his mother's bathroom and came out with her toothbrush. He held it up and said with a smile, "We better throw this one out too then, 'cause it fell in the toilet a few days ago." Honesty, how sweet it is! Inspire your family to practice honesty every day.



Honesty at Home:

- ♥ **Be honest in everything you say and do.** Avoid any little white lies.
"Let us speak the truth always." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson
- ♥ **Establish an Honesty Honor Roll for the month of November** – a special way to recognize family member's honesty in action. Hang a chart or give out a special treat to honor those that have demonstrated honesty.
- ♥ **Play the George Washington Game.** Ask your child to tell about a time he had been tempted to be dishonest. Discuss the positive consequences for telling the truth and the negative results had he chosen to lie, i.e.: guilt, loss of respect and privileges, punishment, embarrassment. Afterwards, share a sticky situation you faced and the outcome of your decision.
- ♥ **Check out the newspaper for examples of honest and dishonest actions to share with your child.** (Unfortunately, today you do not have to look much farther than the front page.) Discuss possible reasons why people lie, cheat or steal, and the consequences of their decisions.
- ♥ **Look for truth and honesty in advertising.** Tune in on a Saturday morning with your child and watch a few commercials of the latest toys being marketed to kids. Help your child discern what she is seeing. Is the toy really as big and fun to play with as the advertiser makes it seem?