BUILDING CHARACTER

CITIZENSHIP

I recently saw a bumper sticker that read "Giving makes living better." People who have discovered this truth know that life is more meaningful when you give to others. Good citizens are willing to reach out, listen up, respect all, and give unselfishly in the home and community, and around the world. This month as we talk about citizenship, challenge your child to find a way to serve others and make a difference in your home and community.
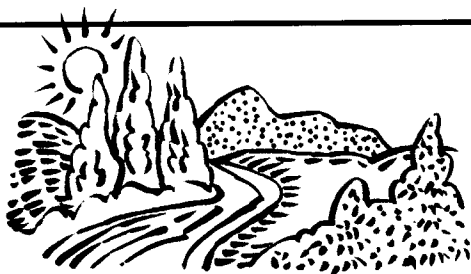
CITIZENSHIP AT HOME

1. 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, etc.)

2. 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!

3. To demonstrate to your child how doing her part and working together is important, have her and a friend make a sandwich together. Give them each one slice of bread and allow each one to use only one hand. The bread can not be folded and must be cut to make the sandwich. It can be a little messy, but should give them a taste of citizenship.

Imagine what our neighborhood would be like if each of us offered just one kind word to another person. There have been so many stories about the lack of courtesy, the impatience of today's world, road rage, and even restaurant rage. Sometimes, all it takes is one kind word to nourish another person. Think of the ripple effect that can be created when we nourish someone. One kind empathetic word has a wonderful way of turning into many.

**from *The World According to Mister Rogers*
by Fred Rogers**

*"I am only one, but still I am one.
I cannot do everything, but still I can
do something; I will not refuse to do
the something I can do."*

Helen Keller

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

Anonymous

BUILDING CHARACTER...THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!