



Justice & Fairness

BUILDING CHARACTER

JANUARY

If your house is anything like mine then the phrase, "That's not fair!" is uttered by children more often than you'd like. Sometimes their concern is legitimate and sometimes it's not. However, when we take the time to talk it out and help them work through situations at home, we give them the confidence they'll need to speak up for themselves and for others when treated unfairly. Just like it says in the poem "Children Learn What They Live" by Dorothy Law Nolte, "If children live with fairness, they learn justice."

JUSTICE & FAIRNESS AT HOME

1. Establish your own "Family Court." Invite family members to fill out a "complaint" form when they experience a situation they feel is unfair and place it in a designated box or envelope. One a week read and discuss all of the concerns together. Talk about ways to make things more fair for everyone.
2. Play a simple game. Take two crumpled tissues and put them side by side at the end of a long table. Next, see who can blow his paper to the other end first. Comment on your child's reaction when he either wins or loses. Use the opportunity to talk about playing fair and being a good sport.

FOUR WAYS to Treat People Fairly

Find ways to share, take turns, and feel less jealous.

Ask people what you can do to help make things more fair

Include others in games and activities. Don't leave people out.

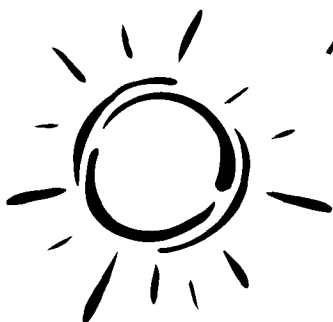
Respect people who are different from you.

Being Your Best, Barbara Lewis

People with Character

- They walk with integrity.
- They do what is right.
- They tell the truth.
- They don't gossip.
- They don't mistreat people.
- They side with those who are right.
- They keep their word.
- They lend money to those in need without interest.
- They don't take advantage of people for financial gain.

*from A Diamond in the Rough
by Andrew Stanley*



*"The sun
shines
upon all
alike."*

English Proverb

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

