



BUILDING CHARACTER

NOVEMBER

One day, a 4-year-old named Justin came running out of the bathroom to tell his mom that he'd 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

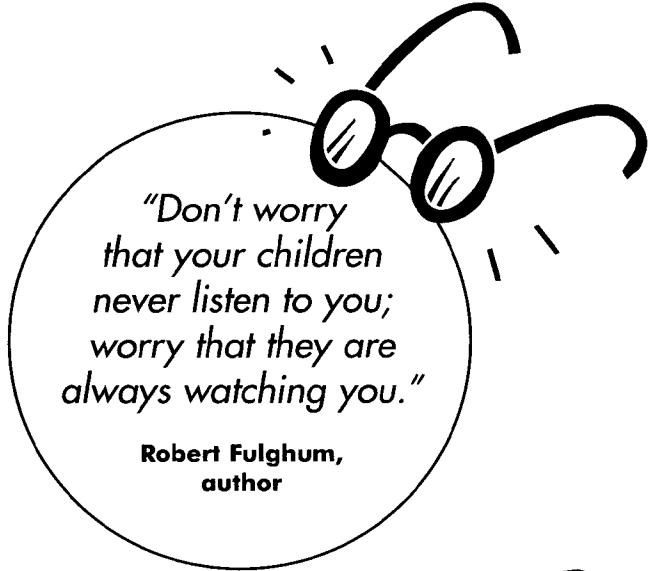
1. Be honest in everything you say and do. Avoid any of those "little white lies."
2. Establish an Honesty Honor Roll for the month of November—a special way to recognize family members' honesty in action.
3. Play the George Washington Game. Ask your child to tell about a time he had been tempted to be dishonest. Discuss the positive consequences of telling the truth and the negative ones had he chosen to lie (e.g., guilt, loss of respect and privileges, punishment, embarrassment). Afterwards, share a similar situation that you have faced.
4. Look for truth and honesty in advertising. Tune in on 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?
5. Check out the newspaper to find examples of honest and dishonest actions to share with your child. Discuss possible reasons why people lie, cheat, or steal, and the consequences of their decisions.

What if...

(A situation to discuss)

Your older sister has a fancy, expensive watch she bought with money she earned babysitting. She lets you wear the watch to school for a party. Your friends think it's your watch, and they're impressed. They gather around you and look at you with wide eyes. Someone says, "You must be rich to have a watch like that." You know you're not rich, but it feels good to have everyone think so. What will happen if you tell the truth? If you don't? Does it matter in a case like this? Why or why not?

from *Being Your Best* by Barbara Lewis



*"Don't worry
that your children
never listen to you;
worry that they are
always watching you."*

Robert Fulghum,
author

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

