

CHARACTER



Dependability
2005

November

Being dependable is defined as being trustworthy.

“Diamonds are only chunks of coal that stuck to their jobs.”

—Minnie Richard Smith

Richard L. Evans, long time voice of the “Spoken Word” said, “One of the great discoveries in life is finding a dependable person.”

Dependability is one of the most sought after qualities in our society today. Employers look for it in those they wish to hire to work for them. Families function best when it is present with family members. Even in something so simple as finding someone to look after your home or pets when you go on vacation is vital. In every aspect of life we humans need other people whom we can trust and count on. No man is an island. We are all interconnected. I do not know anyone who is capable of doing everything for themselves. We all depend on other people to make our lives complete. From the time we are born this is true. The brand new baby depends on its parents for virtually everything, food, shelter, clothing, warmth, love, mental stimulation. We all know tragic stories about parents who were not dependable in providing those basic needs for their children.

The world would be a much better place if every person could be counted on to do the things they say they are going to do. That's what dependability is really, doing what you say you will do, keeping your promises. Dr. Richard Carlson Ph. D., author of “Don't Sweat the Small Stuff,” said, “You can do a lot of things wrong, but if you keep your promises, you'll be richly rewarded in terms of the quality of your relationships and the integrity that others will perceive that you have. On the other hand, if you fail to keep your promises, those around you-even your own family-will take your words

less seriously, or even worse, learn to distrust you altogether...By keeping our promises, we do our little part in helping our loved ones keep their cynicism to a minimum. We teach them that some people can be trusted and are trustworthy.”

I have a really wonderful family and many outstanding friends; all of whom I can count on to help me when I am in need. They have been a wonderful example to me of dependability. I hope that I am someone they can count on in return. That is the way it always works. If we are willing to help people around us when they need something, it will always come back to us usually many times over. That is what I meant when I said we all depend on each other. I believe that is the way life is supposed to be. If it were not so, we would all be very lonely and unhappy people. That in itself is probably one of the most important reasons to develop the value of dependability, because the happiness of someone else might depend on whether we do or not.

Albert Einstein said, “A hundred times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life depend on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving.” If we would all live by the same philosophy, there would be many more dependable people to be discovered.

Julia Sharp
Lindon Resident

“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

—Theodore Roosevelt

**“Don't make excuses
- make good.”**

—Elbert Hubbard

“Depend on no man, on no friend but him who can depend on himself. He only who acts conscientiously toward himself, will act so toward others.”

—Johann Kaspar Lavater

Book List

Horton Hatches The Egg

by Dr. Seuss

The Little Engine That Could

The Little Hero of Holland

(*The Book of Virtues*, page 533)



Family Activities

-John Philip Sousa was born on November 6, 1854. On December 25th, he composed our national march, "The Stars and Stripes Forever." The John Philip Sousa Award is presented to select high school students for superior musicianship, dependability, loyalty, and cooperation. Imagine trying to march to an undependable beat. *Why is dependability an important character trait for a band member and others?"*

-Read heartwarming newspaper articles about local heroes.

Talk about people who have jobs where their dependability is essential to their community (firemen, policemen, etc.). Talk about those people who are dependent on you doing your job and those who depend on your child to do his job.

--Give your children a chance to see how it feels to be in someone else's shoes in situations where dependability is important: For 10 to 15 minutes let them pretend to be the parent, while you pretend to be a child.

-When practical, let your children feel the consequences of their mistakes—"If you leave your bike out in the rain, it gets rusty."

Kid's Corner

Dependability means doing what I said I would do, even if it's hard. When your mom asks you to clean your room, you do it because you said you would. You don't just do what you said once, but all the time so others know that they can count on you. Being there for your friends and brothers and sisters means they know you will always help them.

We depend on others to do their jobs everyday. My dad goes to work to make money to care for our family. My baby sister depends on my mom and me to feed her, bathe her, change her clothes and teach her. Policemen, firemen, the military and other government people work hard to always be there for us keeping us safe and helping us in an emergency.

I can practice being dependable now so I will grow up to be a dependable adult in my country!

*Susan Anderson
Homeschooler, age 9*

We, at Character Connection would like to focus on helping parents access character materials this year by using the web site located at www.lindoncharacterconnection.com. If you are interested in receiving a monthly reminder of the character traits and access to resource materials, please e-mail your address to arlainea@isquaredinc.com

Character Connection is a not-for-profit organization encouraging the enhancement of character development in our community. We are accepting financial support, if you can help please send contributions to:
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 c/o Alpine Foundation
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