

# CHARACTER

Honesty

October 2007



**HONESTY: Being truthful in words and actions.**  
“Character is doing the right thing when nobody is looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that’s right is to get by, and the only thing that’s wrong is to get caught.”  
--J.C. Watts

Being an honest person means to tell the truth and act in a way so that others will trust and respect you. One of the most important values that parents can teach their children is the value of honesty. Small children learn by seeing and doing what their parents, older brothers and sisters and other family members do and say. Building honesty as a family virtue will also strengthen our schools, communities and nation. Let's explore the value of honesty.

## WHAT IS HONESTY?

- \*Honesty is telling the truth.
- \*Honesty is straightforward conduct.
- \*Honesty is being sincere, truthful, trustworthy, honorable, fair, genuine, and loyal with integrity.

## WHAT DO HONEST PEOPLE DO?

- \*Tell the truth despite consequences.
- \*Voice their opinion in a kind, thoughtful way.
- \*"Tell on" someone only when necessary.
- \*Show and share their feelings.
- \*Know their classmates and teachers care and want the best for them.
- \*Feel and react without guilt.
- \*Express themselves positively as well as critically.

## YOU ARE BEING HONEST WHEN YOU...

- \*Do your own homework.
- \*Tell a friend the truth.
- \*Explain the real reason you didn't turn in your homework.
- \*Keep your eyes on your own paper.
- \*Clean up your room after making a promise.
- \*Give the cashier the extra money she gave you by mistake.
- \*Write a report in your own words instead of copying.
- \*Admit you made the mistake.
- \*Keep a friend's secret.
- \*Turn in a wallet full of money that you found.

## WE ARE BEING HONEST WITH OURSELVES WHEN WE...

- \*Accept responsibility for your own actions; don't blame others.
- \*Be honest about your feelings.
- \*Face issues as they arise.
- \*If you are considering lying, try to think of the consequences.
- \*When confronted with a situation, think of others.

## WE CAN PUT HONESTY INTO ACTION BY...

- \*Thanking someone in your family for being honest.
- \*Telling your parents about a mistake you've made.
- \*Telling the truth when you've done something wrong.
- \*Complimenting a friend for being honest.
- \*Expressing your real feelings without anger, without blaming others, without exaggerating, and without hurting the feelings of someone else.
- \*Turning in something that is lost and encourage others to do the same.
- \*When someone wants to copy your work, politely explain that it isn't right and that it's best to do your own work.
- \*Admitting a mistake or error in judgment you have made and apologize to anyone it might have affected.
- \*Doing your schoolwork honestly.
- \*Being truthful with your friends and thank them for being truthful with you.
- \*When you ask someone to be honest with you, don't get angry with them if their honesty isn't what you wanted to hear.

**"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."**  
—Mark Twain

**"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom."**  
-- Thomas Jefferson

**"I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man."**  
—George Washington

## Book List

"The Empty Pot"

by Demi

"A Day's Work"

by Eve Bunting

"Passage to Freedom"

by Ken Mochizieki

"I Did It, I'm Sorry"

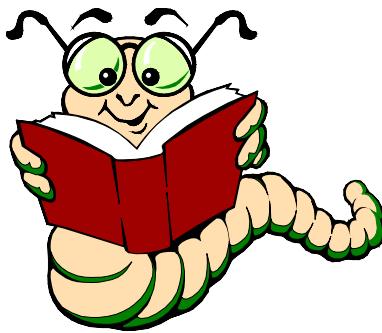
by Buehner

"The Value of Honesty"

by Johnson

"The Children's Book of Virtues"

by William Bennett



## Family Activities

-Share the meaning of honesty with your family. Ask them to share their ideas with you.

-Remind members of your family to be honest. Decorate family areas with signs telling about the value of honesty.

-Create a family honor code. Write it down and hang it up in the home, so that everyone can see it all year long.

--Plan a family

field trip to a daycare center to tell stories with themes of honesty to young children.

By Laura Clement

## Kid's Corner

When I was 8, my mother asked me to do some chores before we left on vacation. I hurried through getting ready and got into the car. My mother asked me while we were driving if I had remembered to feed the chickens. I had forgot! I did not want to cause trouble and so I did not tell the truth. I told her the chore was done. We continued on our vacation and I forgot about it. When we got home, we discovered that the chickens had not been well cared for. I also had not been honest and had to tell my parents the truth. The chickens weren't well. I learned from that experience to be honest and do what I said I would do and to always tell the truth, regardless of the consequences. You just feel better about yourself when you are honest.

--Courtney, Northridge Elementary

We, at Character Connection would like to focus on helping parents access character materials by using the web site located at [www.lindoncharacterconnection.com](http://www.lindoncharacterconnection.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:

Lindon Character Connection  
c/o Alpine Foundation  
575 N 100 E  
American Fork, UT 84003  
(You may also give your donation to any executive board member.)

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