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## FAIRNESS

MARCH 2011

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*Fairness: Is playing by the rules. "The precepts of the law are these: To live honestly, to injure no one, and to give every man his due. Justinian*

Have you ever thought something "wasn't fair"? Did you ever think your brother or sister was getting a bigger slice of cake than your slice and it just "wasn't fair"? Do you think it is important to be fair? Well, what is fairness? Does it always mean treating everyone the same?

Let's ask some more questions. If someone had been lost for two days with no food, would it be fair to give them a bigger sandwich than yours? If someone in your class studied their spelling words or their Spanish vocabulary words for two hours and did better on a test than you did after studying for one hour, would it be fair if they got an A and you got a B? Sometimes when something is "fair", it doesn't mean equal.

So again I ask, what is fairness? Here are a few examples of things that are fair and some that aren't fair. What do you think?

1. Your teacher divides your class and everyone who has blue eyes gets ten minutes more at recess. Well, that certainly doesn't seem fair. You can't choose your eye color and it doesn't seem fair to be rewarded just for your eye color.

2. Your teacher tells you that, if you get your homework turned in time the next day, you will get 5 minutes extra recess. That seems pretty fair. Everyone knows the rules; everyone can get their homework turned in on time if they try.

3. Imagine that your mother promises you a trip to the movies if you help clean the house, so you work really hard helping clean. Your older sister plays video games while you work. Is it fair that you both get to go to the movie?

4. Imagine that you have two puppies, you teach both of them to shake a paw with you. You like the black puppy more than the brown puppy so you always give the black puppy a treat for shaking but you don't give the brown one a treat. Are you showing fairness to both puppies?

Did you know that when you don't show fairness others can tell? Even those puppies we were talking about know when you are being fair. People studied dogs and here's what they said "Dogs have an intuitive understanding of fair play and become resentful if they feel that another dog is getting a better deal, a new study has found." The dogs who were not rewarded, and treated fairly, for shaking paws could see when other dogs received a reward for shaking paws. The dogs who were not rewarded stopped shaking paws when they were asked to shake. (1)

Fairness can be as simple as making sure we understand how everyone feels and treating everyone kindly. Fairness can mean taking time to think about how others feel. Fairness can be not treating someone differently because they look or sound different. Fairness can mean being sure that everyone understands the rules and has the same ability to keep the rules. Fairness can mean giving everyone the same opportunity to be happy and to be successful.

Life isn't always fair but we can always treat others with fairness.

Lindsey Bayless

Lindon Resident, Lindon City Councilwoman



# Book List



*Frederick* by Leo Lionni

*Tops & Bottoms* by Janet Stevens

*“The Little Red Hen,”* The Children’s Book of Virtues, edited by William J. Bennett

# Family Activities

**\*\*PLAY FAIR:** Play a board game. Talk about the importance of playing fair.

**\*\*EVENLY SPLIT:** Give each member of the family an ingredient for a banana split. Talk about how fairness means sharing. When all are fair then each in the group has a wonderful time eating a delicious treat.

**\*\* Dr. Seuss was born on March 2, 1904. Read “The Sneetches” and talk about the importance of treating others with fairness rather than prejudice.**

# Kid’s Corner

Being fair means everyone gets the same chance or opportunity and treating all people equally with respect.

At school we have recess. Kids get to choose what to do with their time and only a few adults are outside to help.

Learning how to get along in a large group by ourselves teaches us how important rules are. A rule or law tries to make it fair for everyone. When we play four-square or soccer, a rule is made to make things “fair.” Everyone has to agree to the rule and everyone has to follow it. Bad feelings happen when one person wants to change the rule just for him or won’t obey it.

In our community, we live together and we have to work together to set rules, treat each other with respect, obey the rules, and discipline those who won’t obey the rules.

This makes our democratic government fair and protects everyone.

Tiffany Nicholson

*This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.*

Theodore Roosevelt

*Never look down on anybody unless you’re helping him up.*

Rev. Jesse Jackson

We, at Lindon 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).

Lindon 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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