

The Pillar of Month: January is the month of Fairness



Fairness: Fairness is playing by the rules, taking turns, sharing, and listening. Fair people do not take advantage of others. They consider all sides before they decide and don't blame others.

Fairness Dos:

- Treat all people fairly
- Listen closely to others. Try to understand what they are feeling and saying or trying to say
- Consider all the facts, including opposing views, before making a decision
- Make impartial decisions, using the same criteria or standards for everyone
- Correct your mistakes

Fairness Don'ts:

- Don't take advantage of other people's mistakes or ignorance
- Don't take more than your fair share
- Don't let personal preferences, prejudices, or other feelings improperly interfere with decisions which should be based on merit.

Practicing Fairness at Home

Here is a list of activities parents can do to reinforce Fairness at home:

1. Show fairness to one another by establishing and using criteria and guidelines for special privileges
2. Use fairness-related terms in conversation-such as fait, equality, standards, and rules
3. Announce rules for family life in writing
4. Develop rules that are appropriate for varying age and skill levels.
5. Focus on fairness for an entire month
6. Play games by the rules
7. Discuss fair ways to choose a movie, restaurant or vacation
8. Discuss why choices seem fair when they put us at an advantage and unfair when they put us at a disadvantage
9. As a family, discuss "unfair" practices and together develop more equitable procedures

Books on Fairness

Listening to the Mukies by Bohlken, R

Case of the Double-Cross by Bonsall, C.

Nice New Neighbors by Brandenburg, F.

Fox Steals Home by Christopher, M.

Everett Anderson's Friend by Clifton, L.

Thank You, Jackie Robinson by Cohen, B.

Dealing with Competitiveness by Don Middleton

Arthur's Penpal by Hoban, L.

Best Friends for Frances by Hoban, R.

Ton and Pon: Two Good Friends by Iwamura, K.

Being Fair by Cassie Mayer

Cookies by Rosenthal, A.K .

That's Not Fair by Sarnoff, J.