



Citizenship

Family
Newsletter

Reflections for Elementary School Parents
Helping Families Teach Good Character

Dear Parent(s):

Please read the following to your children. Post it in your home and provide opportunities where it can be discussed. Create a home environment where good citizenship is encouraged and practiced.

*A good citizen is someone who respects others and their property.
He/she is helpful and considerate, willing to put others first.
He/she listens to the views of others and thinks about what they have to say.
He/she helps people who are not in a position to help themselves.
He/she respects the environment and does not damage it in any way.
He/she works hard.
He/she is well mannered and pleasant.
He/she is always willing to learn.*

Activities to do as a family to promote citizenship:

- Participate in a community service project such as recycling, cleaning up parks, habitat for humanity, or feeding the homeless.
- Pick someone in the community that has served in the armed forces generously. Have your child make a card or a gift of appreciation.
- Watch a television program or movie together. Afterwards, ask how specific characters were showing good citizenship.
- Show your child a newspaper article that discusses a local problem in your community. Discuss how different citizens are trying to solve the problem or could be solving the problem.
- Read and discuss the book *Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges.

Character Check

Make sure your child is reflecting on these questions in order to keep themselves in check.

Do I show care and concern for the needs of people around me?

Do I practice acts of kindness to people?

Am I respectful of other's property?

Do I do things to make my community a better place to live?

*A small group of
thoughtful, committed
citizens can change the
world. Indeed, it is the
only thing that ever has.
Margaret Mead*

Dinner/Car Discussions

Discuss with your child how they showed good citizenship at school that day.

Discuss a recent event in your community where residents were good citizens.

Discuss why showing kindness and compassion is part of being a good citizen.

Discuss how the world would be different if more people served and helped others.