

Character Education

HONESTY & INTEGRITY

MS. MCCABE

SAM HOUSTON ELEMENTARY

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Testing, classroom parties, checkpoints, and various events will fill up our calendars so quickly that Christmas will be here before you know it.

Tis the season to give, but remember that you must also continue to take care of yourselves. We need to make sure we are well in order to give our students the best education we possibly can.

This month we will be learning about honesty and integrity.

Honesty- Telling the truth and being fair

Integrity- Being honest and having morals, honor

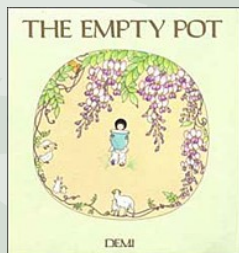
Quick Writing Prompts:

Explain why it's important to tell the truth.

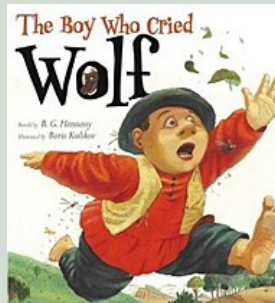
Should you always tell the truth, even if it hurts someone's feelings?

*"Integrity is doing the right thing.
Even when no one is watching."
-C.S. Lewis*

Books You'll Love



The Empty Pot by Demi



The Boy Who Cried Wolf
by B.G. Hennessy

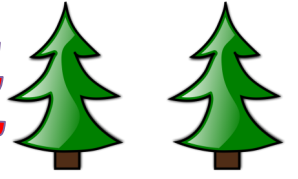
Important Dates:

Guidance Lessons— Honesty & Integrity	12/2-12/10
PTA- Dance Crew Performance	12/10
Dance Field Trip- Nutcracker	12/13
PTA Snow Day	12/13
Medal of Honor	12/16
Healthy for the Holi- days- Family Night	12/17
Little Miss Bake Sale	12/18

*Remember to nominate your students for Medal of Honor by Thursday, December 12th.



Teaching Your Children to Be Honest



I'm sure you want your children to be honest-not to cheat, lie, sneak, cover up or steal. But what's the best strategy to teach them to be truthful?

Sometimes you think you might be helping your children, but you may actually set the children up for failure.

Generally, we may accuse the children or threaten them to tell the truth. However, if you are too harsh, you may make the child afraid to tell the truth. **If you make it safe for them, they will be honest. So be firm on honesty and gentle on your kids.**

Here are two different parent reactions to discovering your child has been shoplifting:

A:

Mom: (In an accusatory voice) Where did you get that candy?

Child: I found it in my pocket.

Mom: Did you steal it from the store?

Child: No, I didn't!

Mom: I think you did. Your sister just told me she saw you take it. And now you're lying to me too.

Child: No, she's lying. I didn't take it.

Mom: Well, then where did you get it? Now you're going to get punished twice-once for stealing and once for lying to me.

B:

Mom: I see that you have some candy. But I didn't buy that for you and your sister just told me that she saw you take it off the shelf when we were in the store.

Child: (Looks down)

Mom: I don't believe in tattling, and I've told your sister that. But it's also important not to steal. And it's just as important that we don't lie to each other. You know we're a family that really values honesty. You trust me and I trust you.

Child: I didn't mean to. It just happened.

Mom: I know, Honey. The temptation is so great. But I'm so proud of you for telling me the truth. That's a hard thing to do and I appreciate it so much. Now, let's get going back to the store. I'll stand by your side while you return the candy.

Which parent are you?

Here are three tips to help your kids learn honesty:

1. Talk with your children-beginning very early- about how much you value honesty in your family.

2. Model honesty for your children-not only in your words but also in your lifestyle.

3. Let them know that you put more emphasis on their honesty than on the punishment for their dishonest behavior.

Understand that not everyone is perfect, and children will make mistakes. However, it's important that you, the parent, discuss honesty and practice it with your children.

Source: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/>

