

COUNSELING CONNECTION

How To Teach Children Integrity & Good Character

✓ **Lead by example by acting with integrity.** Children might not always understand the complexities of adult life, but they have a sweet, simple understanding of right and wrong. We all make mistakes as parents, but the best way to teach your child character is to live a life of integrity yourself as much as possible.

✓ **Be specific with your reasoning.** You ask your child to be patient, kind, or polite and get nothing but a mystified stare in response.

What's going on here? Remember, children are concrete thinkers. Abstract words describing character traits are ambiguous and confusing to young children.

✓ **Offer examples of positive moral behaviors.** Use real-

life examples, books, and movies to help children develop character. Point out positive behaviors and give an explanation to your child.

✓ **Understand that outside influences will affect character development.** During the preschool years, your child's social circle remains small and your influence is large. As children enter the elementary and middle school years, they begin to focus more on peer relations. For better or worse, the influence of peers and media increases. Set logical and safe boundaries about media for your child. Get to know your child's friends.

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Integrity Self-Assessment

*I stand for the rights of others	A	S	N
*I stand up for what I believe in	A	S	N
*I do the right thing when no one is watching	A	S	N
*I avoid gossip	A	S	N
*I am trustworthy	A	S	N
*I am honest	A	S	N
*I am dependable	A	S	N
*I am turn in my best work	A	S	N
*I look out for others	A	S	N
*I own up to my mistakes	A	S	N

A=Always

S=Sometimes

N=Never

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Character Word FEBRUARY

INTEGRITY

Steadfast adherence to a strict code of moral, ethical or artistic values; to consistently be truthful, sincere, and fair; keeping one's word

**Classroom Counseling
Lessons**
FEBRUARY 2021
K-5
INTEGRITY Lessons

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**INTEGRITY is
doing the right
thing when no
one is watching.**
C. S. Lewis

