

Community of Character

Definition: CHARACTER is values and traits that guide behavior for an individual or group encompassing all age levels.

Community of Character: A community working together to build and promote positive attitudes based on character traits.

Philosophy: The philosophy of our effort is based on the concept that CHARACTER does make a difference. As caretakers of the community, every man, woman and child must promote high standards of personal and professional conduct. Behavior that is courteous, kind, lawful, moral and ethical strengthens the community and enhances our ability to create a better quality of life. All citizens, young and old, need to commit to building a *Community of Character*.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to improve the quality of life for the citizens, their families and the community as a whole by promoting values and character traits that guide positive behavior.

January Trait:

Cooperation: Working together to accomplish a common goal.

Classroom Application:

- Review definition.
- Discuss how cooperation was recently demonstrated by classmates (sharing, voting, working together, taking turns, etc...).
- Read books that are good examples of cooperation (ie: Mr. Tall and Mr. Small, Barbara Brenner; The Giant Jam Sandwich, John Vernon Lord; Stone Soup, Marcia Wise Brown; The Little Red Hen, Paul Galdone)

Workplace Application:

- Place "Community of Character" posters in employee break rooms, near time clocks, HR department and other employee gathering areas or customer areas.
- Emphasize character trait of the month by placing definitions on payroll checks, hold contests within your place of employment to encourage the trait of the month, discuss the program and/or trait at your staff meetings.
- Lead by example.
- Encourage your employees to volunteer or donate to groups that highlight cooperation around the world such as Save the Children and Red Cross.
- Show appreciation, encourage others to do their best and make people feel needed. Working together is a lot more fun this way.

Home Application

- Use the calendar provided for discussion with your family.
- Schedule household chores at a time when all family members can work together to finish them.
- Keep your children busy in activities that encourage cooperation such as fine arts, youth groups or Scouts.
- Be a good example by letting your child see you compromise, share, show appreciation and listen to others point of view.

For more information about our "Community of Character" program, please contact 765.472.2400 or write to Community of Character, 35 S. Broadway, Peru, IN, 46970.