



Family Focus on Citizenship

What is Citizenship¹?

Being a good citizen means going beyond our own interests and demonstrating a concern for the needs of the public. Good citizens recognize their obligations to make their homes, schools, neighborhoods, communities, and country the best it can be.

What can families do to reinforce the concept of citizenship?

Your child participated in the "Citizenship Concentration Game." Each child was given a game set to take home. You may want to play the "Concentration Game" as a family and then discuss the following questions when you are done.

Processing¹:

What Happened?

From the matching cards, what guidelines for being a good citizen do you remember?

What's Important?

What guideline did you feel was very important?

So What?

Which ones can you use in the next week?

Now What?

Why should citizenship be more than just something to think about?

During the month, we encourage you to reinforce citizenship ideals by discussing ways the family can improve their home, school, and community. Think about a community service project that you might do together as a family.

Recognize and praise good citizenship when you see it.

Citizenship Challenge:

What does it mean to "protect your neighbors?" As the Citizenship Challenge this month, each member was asked to think about what it means to be a good neighbor. They are to put that into practice by performing some task at least once during each week of the month. They should report back what they did to meet this challenge. You may want to help your child think about options to put good citizenship into practice.

Citizenship Quote:

"It takes a whole village to raise a child." — African Proverb

¹Adapted from Peggy Adkins, "Citizenship" *Exercising Character: A Workout guide for teenagers who make character count for 11-13 year olds*, CHARACTER COUNTSsm, CHARACTER COUNTS! is a service mark of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics, Marina Del Ray, CA, 1995.