

Honesty



During the month of January we focus on the character trait 'honesty'. As you are aware, honesty is an essential value needed for life. In the workplace it is central. For example, employers are reluctant to recruit people who steal, cheat or give inaccurate information. As children and adults, we also tend to avoid those people who lie, cheat in games or steal our property. As we know, it was dishonest men who led Jesus, the greatest example of truth, to his death.

To help us promote the 'honesty' character trait, perhaps you can discuss some of the following issues and sayings at home with your child:

- Compare and contrast the words – 'honest' and 'dishonest'
- The consequences of stealing other people's belongings
- The difference between a 'good' secret and a 'bad' secret (Child Protection/Stranger Danger)
- Telling tales – why some are important to discuss and others not
- Cheating in games – how this leads to children not wanting to play
- The consequences of telling lies for both the victim and the guilty party
- Those who cry wolf eventually cry on their own
- Honest hearts produce honest actions
- An honest answer is the sign of true friendship
- Always tell the truth even if you have to make it up
- If you tell the truth you do not have to remember anything
- No legacy is so rich as honesty
- A lie may take care of the present but it has no future
- Be true to your work, your word, your friend
- Don't measure your neighbours honesty by your own
- What a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive.



How can we be more honest? – Some helpful tips

- Talk about the importance of telling the truth through role play / use of puppets
- Read short stories including 'A Cautionary Tale' – 'Pinocchio'
- Circle Time – Explore ways of being honest. For example, "I am honest when ..."
- Circle Time - Discuss the idea of keeping secrets. Times when it is a "good secret" and times when an appropriate adult may have to be told the "secret"
- Structured Play – Encourage children to be fair through play, sharing games and time allocated to toys in classroom or area
- Talk about 'tell tales' and how telling tales does not promote friendship
- Help children through discussion and circle time, become aware of a tale they should repeat to an appropriate adult and one they should not
- Discuss the consequences of "stealing" other people's belongings and the responsibility of replacing the stolen object
- Discuss with the children, that "cheating" in any form is a dishonest act and is not a good quality for an honest person
- Talk about the consequences of dishonesty
- Role-play/drama. Dramatise stories about honesty.
- Talk about the importance of honesty in school, the workplace and life in general
- Discuss how others view people who are honest and people who are dishonest
- Discuss the story of Jesus' death and the part 'dishonesty' had to play. Ask children to imagine how this story would have ended if honest people had played their role fully



God sent his one and only Son to die for us. Let's be the best person we can be.