

Character Education Activities: K-2

- Discuss a quote. Ask students what actions they could take to use this in their lives.
- Have each student draw a "mini-poster," depicting one of the character traits, on 8 1/2 x 11 inch cardstock. Tape together to make a quilt.
- Choose a character dilemma and discuss, e.g., You see someone take someone else's crayons. What would you do?
- Have students write 5-10 words on a 3x5" index card that describe their character traits, then illustrate one of these traits on the back of the card. Display.
- Read a short story every morning that depicts a character trait. See if students can pick out the trait from the story.
- Make a character jar and place it in a prominent place in the classroom. Inside the jar, place slips of paper that contain one character trait or a quotation or a character dilemma, etc. Have a child draw out one of the slips from the jar at the beginning or the end of each day and discuss.
- Have students get into small groups and discuss who is their favorite athlete. Have students tell why they like this person and what they admire about this person.
- Have students talk about their heroes. Find books about heroes for students to read.
- Teach students how to write thank-you notes. Use small note cards for their final copy and have them send.
- Have students role-play the eight character traits. Provide them with scenarios to act out.
- Find something students can do around the school to "help out." This might be a whole class, small group, or individual activity.
- Have students draw, write, or act out what it means to be a good friend.
- As a class, make a list on posterboard of 20 reasons it is good to be different. Post in the classroom.
- Have students make at least 6 coupons to give to others that list how they can help each person. (To Mom: I will help unload the dishwasher for you. To Dad: I will help you wash the car. To a friend: I will play a game with you this week.)
- Discuss teasing: What is it? How does it feel? What can we do to avoid teasing?
- Work with students on how to compliment each other on things they do well. Be a role model for the children in this area. Have the students practice complimenting school staff members, e.g., the cafeteria staff, administrative staff, specialists, etc.
- Talk about feelings. Discuss ways that children can calm down when angry, scared, nervous, etc. What can you say to yourself? What actions can you take?
- Have the class make a list of things that help them succeed in school. Discuss. Post.
- Take stretching breaks every once in a while.
- Talk about or write a skit about acts of kindness and ways to serve others. Make an acts of kindness chain out of construction paper links.
- Have students create simple journals to draw and/or write thoughts, ideas, etc.
- Research activities that students participate in from other countries of the world. Find out how we are the same and how we are different.
- Read stories, newspaper articles, or magazine articles about helping others. Ask students if they think kids can help adults. How? When do you know if someone needs help? Do you think you could get along without anyone's help? Why?
- Play charades with the character traits.
- Have children get a partner and find out three things:
 - they have in common
 - they do differently
 - they really like about each other
 - they might do together
- Collect small film canisters. Give one to each student. Let them fill it with very small items that they can find or draw to represent their character.

Recommended Resources:

Jump Starters, Linda Nason McElherne, Free Spirit Publishing

What do You Stand For? For Kids, Barbara A. Lewis, Free Spirit Publishing

Free Spirit Publishing, www.freespirit.com

