



CHARACTER COUNTS! At Tularcitos

The Character Counts Program

It is always primarily a parent's job to teach a child how to behave and make wise choices, but other institutions and adults working with young people play critical support roles.

It is our belief that the CHARACTER COUNTS!SM program can only enrich our children, our families, our school, and our community if parents embrace it and bring its words, lessons and principles into their home and hearts.



What is Character?

Character is what a person is inside. It is how we think and feel, as well as how we act towards others. Character is about doing the right thing because it makes us feel good inside. It doesn't matter if anyone is watching. It involves doing the right thing whether it is convenient, easy, popular or not. Character is having moral strength.

There are Six Pillars of CharacterSM our children will be learning about this year.

The Pillars are:

Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

You can use this acronym; *TRRFCC*-(remember terrific).



Fall
2008-2009

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Common language to use at home
- ☺ Parenting support at school
- ☺ Foundation for making good choices

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Definitions and Language

Trustworthiness is being honest, telling the truth, keeping promises and being loyal so people can trust you. Trustworthy people don't lie, cheat or steal. They have the courage to do the right thing even when it is hard to do.

Respect means treating others the way you want to be treated and accepting others who may look, speak, act or believe differently than you. Respectful people use peaceful ways to solve conflicts. They never use bad language and violence. A respectful person is polite and courteous to everyone.

Responsibility is doing what you are supposed to do. Responsible people think about how their actions may affect other people, and they accept the consequences of their choices. They do not blame others for their mistakes. Responsible people work hard, do their best, and use self control.

Fairness means playing by the rules, taking turns and sharing. Being fair means listening to all sides before deciding and never blaming others unjustly. A fair person treats all people equally.

Caring is being kind, helpful and generous to others. Caring people are not selfish, and they show concern for the feelings of others. They are considerate and forgiving. A caring person does good deeds without thought of a reward. A caring person follows the rules.

Citizenship is doing your share to make your school, your community and our world a better place. Good citizens cooperate with others, obey laws and rules, and respect authority. They also protect the environment, stay informed and vote. One way to be a good citizen is to volunteer your time for a cause you believe in.



Why Teach about Character?

A person's "character" is the summation of his or her habits, attitudes and attributes. Because those qualities are learned, they can also be purposefully taught. And they should be — because good character doesn't happen automatically, and it's too important to be left to

chance. The effectiveness and well-being of individuals, their organizations and their society depend on it.



"The turning point in the process of growing up is when you discover the core strength within you that survives all hurt."
-- Max Lerner

COLOR SCHEME



Trustworthiness : blue
Think "true blue"



Responsibility : green
Think being responsible for a garden or finances; or as in being solid and reliable like an oak tree



Respect : yellow/gold
Think The Golden Rule



Caring : red
Think of a heart



Fairness: orange
Think of dividing an orange into equal sections to share fairly with friends



Citizenship : purple
Think regal purple as representing the state

Pillar-isms for the Home



Trustworthiness



Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends and country

R-e-s-p-e-c-t

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements



Responsibility

Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices

Fairness

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly



Caring

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others •



Citizenship

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment