

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 1-6: Character (品格) Building (建造) Primer (基本)

Character is who we really are. It's what we do when no one is looking. It's the accumulation (聚集) of thoughts, values, words and actions. These become the habits that comprise (组成) our character. That character shapes our destiny (命运).

A person of character thinks right and does right according to core universal values that define the qualities (品质) of a good citizen. Trustworthiness (可信赖), respect (尊重), responsibility (负责任), fairness (公正), caring (关怀) and citizenship (公民) are called six pillars (支架) of characters that guide youngsters' thoughts, words, actions and habits toward these values, which people in all cultures share, regardless of other differences.

The family is the primary character-building force in a child's life, and conscious (自觉) character education is therefore a major family obligation (义务). As parents, it's our job to help our kids engage the world with as much good character as possible. This challenge becomes more manageable by taking a simple approach and involving the full community in sending a common message about the standards of good character.

You never outgrow the need for good character. Preschoolers need solid standards, and so do their parents. Focusing (集中) on the quality of your own character will help you teach, enforce (执行), advocate (提倡) and model (模范) the six pillars of character which are defined as follows:

1. Trustworthiness: Being trustworthy is being honest, telling the truth, keeping promises and being loyal (忠诚) so people can trust you. Trustworthy people don't lie, cheat or steal. They have integrity (诚实) and the moral courage to do the right thing and stand up for their beliefs even when it is hard to do.

2. Respect: Respect means showing others that they are valued (值得) for who they are, for their character, not what they look like or what they have. It means treating others the way you want to be treated, never insulting or making fun of others who are different in appearance (外表), ability, race or religion. A respectful

person is polite, does not use hurtful (伤害) language and never uses violence (暴力).

3. Responsibility: Having responsibility is doing what you supposed to do. Responsible people think ahead, set reasonable goals and control their tempers (脾气), others are counting on them. They are accountable (负责任) for the consequences (结果) of their choices; they don't blame (责备) others for their mistakes.

4. Fairness: Fairness is playing by the rules, taking turns, sharing and listening. Fair people do not take advantage (利用) of others. They consider all sides before they decide and don't blame others unjustly.

5. Caring: Caring is being kind, helpful and generous to everyone. Caring people are not selfish; they are considerate (体贴) and always thinking about how their conduct affects others. They have compassion (同情心) and empathy (同理心); they care how others feel and they are charitable and forgiving. They do good deeds without thought of reward.

6. Citizenship: Citizenship is doing your share to help your family and make your community a better place. Good citizens are good neighbors. They cooperate with others, obey laws and government authority, protect the environment, and respect the authority of parents, teachers and others.

2. Discussion: 1. Describe the typical behavior of good character.
2. Why is good character important in daily living?
3. How does a person attain good character?

3. *It's your character that counts!*

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