

Character Counts! ® FAIRNESS

One of Six Pillars of Character Counts!



Supplement Leader's Guide to NAFCE's booklet Character Counts! ®- Fairness
Written by Linda Hess, KAFCE State EPC for 2022 Program Year

Educational goals:

- Learn what fairness means.
- Learn to make decisions that are fair.

Community action:

- Present this lesson to fourth grade students, either at school or at the library.
- Connect with homeschooled students in your area.
- Sponsor the Art & Essay Contest.
- Present the lesson to other youth and adult groups.
- Create a display about fairness for a public place.

What is fairness? Fairness involves issues of equality, impartiality, and openness. Being fair is making decisions that are free from discrimination. A fair decision cannot be made until all the facts are known. Prejudice must not influence the decision. Fairness implies adherence to a balanced standard of justice. Interpretation of fairness is difficult as is it judged from individual, differing viewpoints. What is advantageous to us probably seems fair, while the same decision will seem unfair to others.

How do we show fairness?

- We treat others as we want to be treated.
- We take turns.
- We tell the truth.
- We understand and play by the rules.
- We think about how our actions affect others.
- We carefully listen to people, keeping an open mind, especially if their views differ from ours.
- We don't blame others for our mistakes.
- We don't play favorites.
- We don't take advantage of others.

Fairness is a difficult concept for children (and some adults) to understand because sometimes "fair" just doesn't seem equal. We all need to understand that some things in life are "not fair" and may not need to be fair. Johnny getting to stay up later than his friend is not an issue of fairness. The birthday child getting presents while siblings do

not isn't an example of unfairness. However, fairness should be expected when everyone is following the same rules. Fairness should also be expected in our relationships with others.

"Fairness does not mean everyone gets the same. Fairness means everyone gets what they need."Rick Riordan (author of Percy Jackson books for young readers)

"Fairness is giving all people the treatment they earn and deserve. It doesn't mean treating everyone alike."John Wooden (college basketball coach UCLA)

"Fairness is man's ability to rise above his prejudices."Wes Fesler (College football and basketball coach)

"When people talk, listen completely."Ernest Hemingway

"Life is never fair and perhaps it is a good thing for most of us that it is not."Oscar Wilde.

References:

Character Counts! Pamphlet and website

www.goodcharcter.com

2016 Lesson guide written by Edith McClain State EPC