

Helping your children become good citizens

July 2014 Newsletter



In July we celebrate Independence Day: a good time to think about how you can help your kids be good citizens.

Citizenship comes in all shapes and sizes, from town to country to the whole world. Whatever their ages, your kids can learn to be good citizens. As a parent, you can help teach them.

What's a good citizen?

We all belong to many groups. We're part of families, neighborhoods, schools, teams, workplaces and more. The key to being a good citizen in each group is to contribute. That may mean being a leader, a member, a collaborator or playing other roles. Bringing our best to each of the parts we play makes us productive and valuable to our world.

How do we teach our kids to be good citizens?

First and foremost, parents need to be good role models. They need to show how to play a part in society by giving of themselves and caring about others. Remember: With kids, it's what you do — not what you say — that matters most.

Second, parents can encourage certain values and behaviors. Read on to learn about these.

What are some of the qualities of good citizens?

- **Good citizens are honest.** They're honest with themselves and with all those they come into contact with. This makes them people you can count on and trust.
- **Good citizens care.** They care how others feel. They're concerned with how their actions impact others.
- **Good citizens are respectful.** They respect rules and laws whether they're at school, playing sports or driving on the highway. They also respect themselves and steer clear of harmful activities.
- **Good citizens take responsibility.** They think about and own up to their actions. They're also ready to pitch in and help other people.
- **Good citizens are brave.** They do the right thing even when it's risky or unpopular. They might be afraid, but they still stand up for what they believe in.

When do kids have a chance to be good citizens?

Every day! Whatever their age or grade, your kids are learning to be positive members of society. You can help them bring out their best in every arena.