



Becoming A Good Citizen

There are so many things that parents want their children to learn as they grow and mature. Citizenship is one of them. Most adults practice good citizenship behaviors every day – obeying traffic laws, volunteering, or recycling. Children learn to be good citizens by:

- ✓ **Being Responsible**
- ✓ **Following Rules**
- ✓ **Responding to Social Concerns**
- ✓ **Demonstrating Good Social Skills**

You can help your child gain these skills. Here's how:

Infants & Toddlers

- Be a Role Model. Your child's habits start with you. From their earliest moments, children watch you closely and begin to pattern their own behavior and beliefs after yours. If you are a good citizen, your child is more likely to exhibit these habits and have a desire to contribute to the family and his community. Take the time to visit with a neighbor, help a friend, or clean up your community.
- Visit the fire station, town hall or police station. Talk about the people in our community that are community helpers; discuss what they do. Encourage your child to pretend to be these helpers during playtime.
- Fly an American Flag. Let your toddler put it up.
- Read books to your child about extraordinary Americans.

Preschoolers

- Thank and honor those that help your community. Make cards for soldiers or troops that serve in the armed forces.
- Talk with your child about what being a good citizen means. Ask your child to list ways that he can be a good citizen. For example: be friendly to kids at school, walk away from a fight, help the teacher, or wear a helmet when riding a bike.
- Do a community service project with your child. Try: cleaning up the park, visiting a nursing home, or collecting used toys, clothes, or canned goods for a food shelter. Explain to your child that it is important to help the community and other people.
- Take your child with you when you vote in local and national elections. Talk with your child about why it is important to vote.
- Help your child to learn to listen respectfully to people with whom they might disagree.

Book Suggestions

F is for Flag by Wendy Cheyette Lewison • L is for Liberty by Wendy Cheyette Lewison
The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister • The Sand Tray by Dan Rowe