

FAIRNESS

From an early age, you've probably had strong opinions about what is fair and what isn't. Everyone does.

Fairness is, however, one of the most difficult Pillars of Character, or core ethical values, to define clearly. People often simply see those decisions that help them as "fair" and those that don't as "unfair."

Only one thing is clear when it comes to fairness: it is often a matter of perception. Although some decisions are clearly unfair, there is often more than one fair choice.

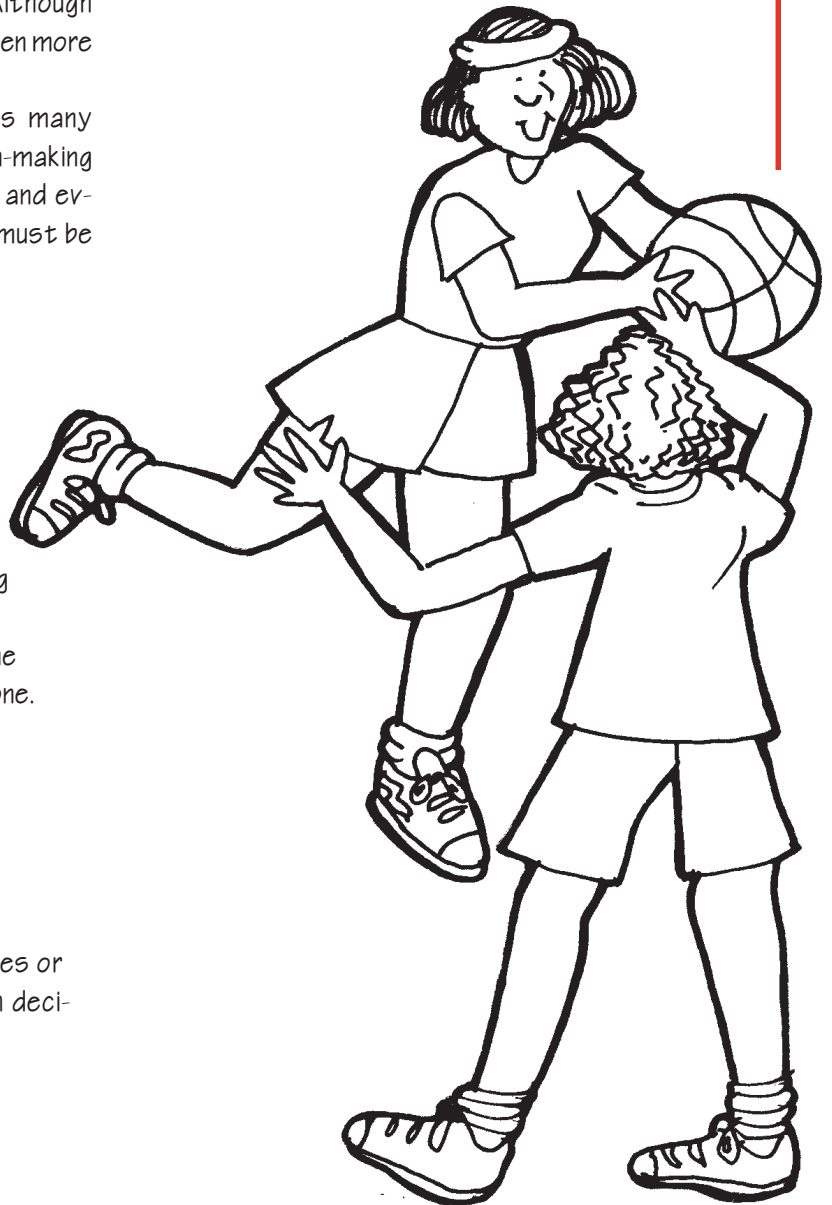
To ensure that choices are fair to as many people as possible, the rules of the decision-making process should be very clear to all involved and everyone should abide by the rules. Everyone must be treated the same under the rules.

Fairness Do's

- ☺ Treat all people fairly.
- ☺ Listen to others and try to understand what they are feeling and saying.
- ☺ Consider all the facts, including opposing views, before making a decision.
- ☺ Make impartial decisions, using the same criteria, rules, or standards for everyone.
- ☺ Correct your mistakes.

Fairness Don'ts

- ☹ Don't take advantage of other people's mistakes or ignorance.
- ☹ Don't take more than your fair share.
- ☹ Don't let personal preferences, prejudices or other feelings improperly interfere with decisions which should be based on merit.



Audience:
 Up to 28
 11- to 13-year-olds

Objective: Participants will apply fairness do's to four family situations, and will focus on being fair to others in the family.

Time: 45 minutes

What you say:	What you do or show:	What participants do:	Hints for trainers:
<p>① We all want to be treated fairly. Fairness at home is no exception, as these actors will show.</p>	<p>Before the session, distribute copies of the skit (Handout #1). Select five actors for the skit and ask them to be group leaders after the skit.</p>	<p>Participants with roles in the skit begin as scripted. Others watch.</p>	
<p>② Let's give our cast a round of applause! They did a great job of making some points for us.</p>			
<p>③ The fairness do's are: treat all people fairly; listen to others and try to understand what they are feeling and saying; consider all the facts, even if the opinions are different from yours; use the same rules consistently for the same situations.</p>			
<p>④ You'll be using these do's for the next few minutes. You'll each get a worksheet and a chance to help Ray, Kay, Fay, May and Jay apply those do's to their family situations.</p>			
<p>⑤ Count off 1-2-3-4. The 1s will go with Ray, the 2s with Kay, the 3s with Fay and the 4s with Jay. The person who acted in the skit will be the group leader. You have 15 minutes to answer these questions and to give your actor a new script that shows a better understanding of fairness in the family.</p>	<p>Divide them into groups. Give each group copies of Handouts #2 and #3.</p>	<p>Participants divide into groups, with actors serving as group leaders, and work together to answer questions and re-write the skit.</p>	

What you say:

What you do or show:

What participants do:

Hints for trainers:

6 Each of you should resolve to do one thing at home this week to be more fair. Tell others in your group what this will be.

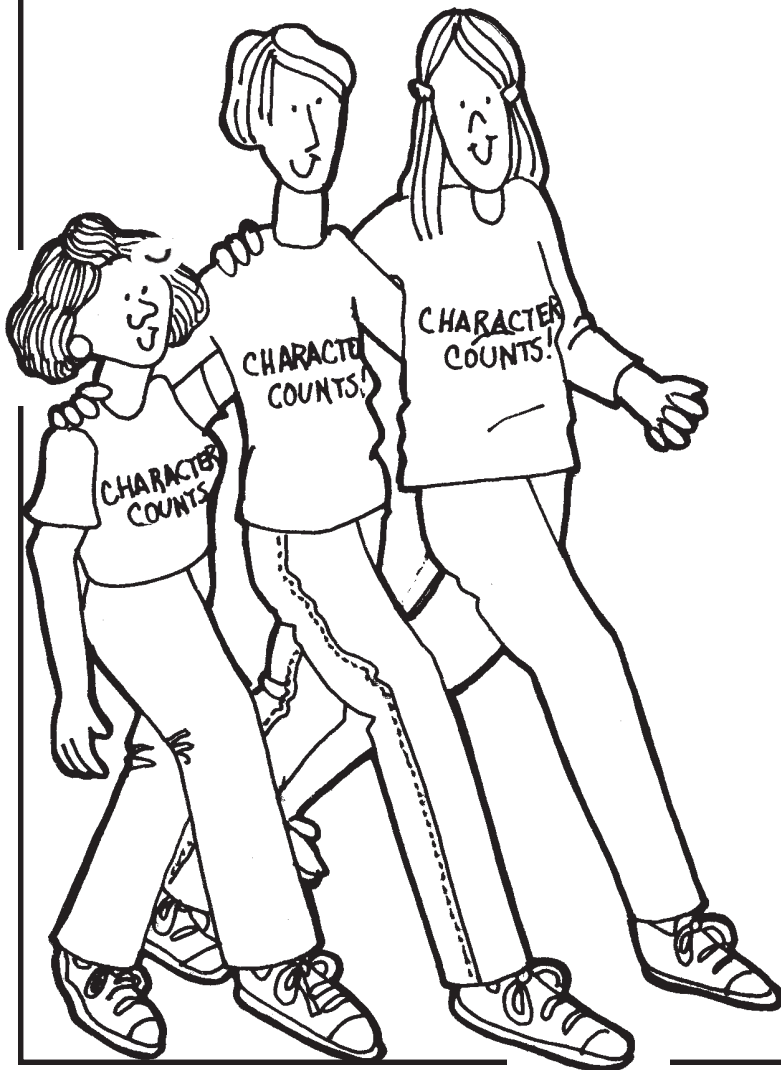
Refer to question #10 on Handout #2.

They share their plans to be more fair.

7 Come back now and let's replay our skit with the new scripts that emphasize fairness.

The actors repeat the skit with the lines written by groups.

8 You did it! You found a little fairness for these families. Just as we want to be treated fairly, we need to show fairness to others. We can do it by treating everyone fairly, listening to people and understanding their feelings, considering all the facts and using rules consistently for the same circumstances.



Other Ways to Help 11- to 13-Year-Olds Be Fair



- Encourage them to discuss fairness at home with emphasis on showing fairness to others instead of demanding fair treatment for themselves.
- As a group, list ways individuals want to be shown fairness. Remind them that equity is applying the same rules for the same circumstances (like age, responsibilities, maturity, finances, time available). Then use similar criteria to make a report card, which the young people can use to grade themselves on how well they show fairness to others.
- Create other skits. Share them with **CHARACTER COUNTS!** for inclusion in future publications. Call (800) 711-2670.
- Play a group game that requires keeping score. Talk about feelings related to the final score, and feelings related to inaccurate scores. Then discuss fair play.
- Invite a panel of family members to discuss fairness in the family. Follow it with a brainstorming session of ways to show fairness to others.
- Have a “table game night.” Review the rules for all the games, then rotate from table to table for 30-minute game sessions. Record scores for each game, and reward the high-scoring game player with a yellow ruler for going by the rules and as a reminder to live by the Golden Rule.

Exercising Character

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