

Parents - If you haven't already read the pages on "Developing Character in Your Children," you might want to go there first before reading these pages.



Generous Pelican

1. Draw a big pelican on poster board (or cut him out to make a mobile.)
2. Draw a second lower beak and staple it over the first to form a pouch.
3. Cut out fish of varying sizes that will fit in the beak.
4. Let the children identify examples of generosity in the news and community, write them on the fish, then place the fish in the beak.

Tips for Parents to Encourage Generosity

As with most character qualities, they are best taught by example. Most parents are naturally generous with their children, as raising babies requires giving much time and energy and love, sometimes sacrificially. However, if that time and energy has been given grudgingly, children will feel that and think they are of little value. On the other hand, they will feel of great worth when a parent spends time with them with joy.

To train your children to be generous, remember:

Demonstrate generosity. Let them see you thinking first of others and planning ways to give to others. Time that you spend with elderly parents will show your children the value you place on your parents and encourage them to value and care for the elderly (someday that will be you!)

Encourage generosity. Design family projects where money is saved or resources are gathered to meet needs you have identified in your community. Let the children have an active part in meeting those needs (shopping, gift wrapping, delivering).

Help them to want to give sacrificially.

Celebrate with joy when a giving project is completed!

Praise generosity. Look for every opportunity to praise your children when they show generosity. If they share, show teamwork, give up their rights or place to another, offer to spend time helping you or another, they are showing a heart of generosity. Be sure to name the character quality they are demonstrating and perhaps comment on how their act really helped someone.

Over-Under Game

(This game teaches that giving to others and working together brings success.)

Have the children stand in a single-file line. The child at the front of the line will start with a balloon in her hands. When the teacher says "go," the first child passes the balloon over her head to the second child. The second child takes the balloon, passes it through his legs to the third child, and so on.

The children continue to alternate passing the balloon over and under until it reaches the back of the line. The child at the end of the line takes the balloon and runs to the front of the line and passes the balloon overhead, and the sequence begins again. The game is completed when the child who started in front returns to the front of the line.

Variation:

Have the children stand in a circle and pass the balloon to their neighbor and time how fast the balloon travels around the circle.