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**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.**

*"Those who are under authority have authority!"*



## Gratefulness Mobile

1. Cut out cloud shapes from poster board. Write on one side of each cloud something that might be a difficult situation. Then have the children name some good things that could come from that situation and write them on the opposite of each cloud.
2. Let the children use gray crayons to color on the side with the difficult situation.
3. Spray glue, then glitter, on the positive side.
4. Tie thread through the top of each cloud and then tie at different lengths to the edge of a paper plate.
5. Put a pipe cleaner through a hole in the middle of the paper plate and make a knot to secure it underneath the plate. Make a hook at the top of the pipe cleaner to hang the mobile from a light fixture.

## Tips for Parents to Encourage Gratefulness

**The best way to teach your child gratefulness is to demonstrate it. Let them hear a grateful attitude when you go through difficult circumstances. Your cheerful and appreciative response in those times will build the same gratefulness in them.**

**When you model contentment and taking care of what you do have, even though you want something newer, they will learn to put aside complaining about what they don't have and will learn to take care of what they have now.**

**Express gratefulness to your children when they help you with duties and when they respond obediently to your requests. Children love to receive little notes of appreciation, grateful words of praise, stickers, certificates, and, of course, big hugs! Being appreciated will make them want to please even more.**

**Why not let the children help you make a gratefulness scrapbook? Include pictures and little stories of those who have helped you become what you are. When someone does something good for your family, write a little mention of it for the scrapbook (and perhaps send a copy of the page to the person you are honoring.) At a family gathering for a holiday such as Thanksgiving, the scrapbook can be brought out for the family to go through. This will help the children remember and look for the good things that are coming their way to be grateful for!**

**Gratefulness is a profound and powerful quality for children to develop, keeping them positive in hard times, functioning in healthy relationships, and free of bitterness later in life!**

## Blindfold Game

Prepare a few hand-drawn pictures of a house, car, table, chair, or some other type of simple object. Make a blindfold using a handkerchief. Blindfold one child and then ask him or her to draw a picture on the chalkboard as you describe it in detail. Example: "Draw a horizontal straight line. Draw another line going straight up from there," etc.

When the child is finished, remove the blindfold and compare his or her drawing with the picture. Ask the child to draw the picture again without the blindfold. Compare the pictures. Point out the benefit of eyesight. This activity can be repeated with children giving and receiving the instructions.