HEMPSTEAD
City of Character

"Building On a Solid Foundation"

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.

Tips for Parents to Encourage Sincerity

Cultivating a climate of honor in your home can have a remarkable effect on the level of joy, harmony, and creativity in your family. As usual, it begins with you as the parents. As you honor each other by tone of voice, actions, and facial expressions, the children will follow.

When you keep your conversation (and thoughts) free of critical comments about authorities, the children will likewise develop honoring attitudes toward authority.

Encourage the children to respect each other's opinions by showing respect to their opinions and conversation. When you listen to them at their eye level, making eye contact, they will sense the value you place on what they have to say.
When you demonstrate respect toward your own aging parents, speaking well of the grandparents to the children, and encouraging the children to thank, respect, and honor them (yes, even if there are weaknesses in the grandparents), the children will, in return, honor you.

Children can learn honor by being taught to respect others' property, your house rules and those of their friends' parents, and the rules of their teachers and other authorities. They can be taught to use proper titles for adults, including "sir" and "ma'am," and proper handling of the American flag to show honor for our country. They can be taught to show honor in their facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice, as well as their words. Role playing can help demonstrate do's and don'ts in communicating honor.

If children are taught to honor when they are young, the teenage years can be delightful and productive, free of the chaos brought into a home by teenage rebellion. It is worth the time it takes to model and teach honor at an early age!

Bunches of Heroes

- Have the children honor those who benefit their lives by writing thank-you notes. Encourage them to think of those that might not be noticed normally, such as the custodian at school.
- Have the children write "tributes" to those who have benefited them, then frame them and give them as gifts to those persons.
- Develop the habit of honor by keeping a picture frame in a prominent place in your home. Change the contents each month so that the children are honoring a different person with a picture and brief description of the person's character trait you want to honor.
- As parents, honor your children at the dinner hour for a character trait you noticed in them that day or week.

*Check out the **Just for Kids** pages for an animal analogy and a biographic sketch illustrating Honor*