

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.

"Justice is truth in action"
-- Joseph Goebert



Bunches of Heroes

A person with a sense of justice will not turn their backs when they see unjust situations occur. Train your children to respond properly if they see a crime:

1. Describe a situation to the children that is clearly a violation of law. Pretend they were the only witnesses.
2. Let them role play calling proper authorities. Be sure they know emergency numbers to use.
3. Let them give their personal information for the dispatcher: name, address, phone number.
3. Teach them to give a clear description of what happened, stating the details plainly.
until the dispatcher tells them to hang up.

Tips for Parents to Encourage Justice

One of the most common complaints a parent hears is, "It's not fair!" Most of us confuse justice with fairness, but there is a vast difference. Fairness is based on the false supposition that everyone should receive the same thing at the same time. Justice, however, applies solid, time-tested standards of right and wrong to each situation and takes into account a person's abilities, responsibilities, and actions before making decisions.

In order to develop justice in our children, we must be sure they have a clear moral sense of right and wrong that is unchangeable and not molded to fit each situation. As you apply the standards of your household evenly and consistently, avoiding anger, but applying wisdom, the children will develop an innate sense of justice.

Model for them the principles of restoration and reformation as you show kindness to those who are wounded, and grace and a second chance to those who have offended. When they see this pattern of dealing with conflicts, free of revenge motives, they will be just in their dealings with others.

The newspapers will offer situations daily that have ended unjustly. Family discussions about these will sharpen the children's sense of justice and cause them to act with responsibility when needed.