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.

Trash to Treasure

Start an ongoing family treasure hunt. The treasure will be items that are usually considered trash that can be made into something useful.

Draw and paint a big treasure box onto a piece of poster board, cut it out, and glue it around the edges to another poster board to form a pocket.

Each time the children find a useful item, write it on a colorful piece of paper (perhaps cut into jewel shapes) and place inside the treasure box, even gluing some so that they appear to fill the box.

Display the box in a place where all can see. When the box appears full, or has a certain number of items in it, you could plan a family activity to celebrate your treasures.

Resourcefulness

vs. wastefulness

"Making wise use of what others might overloook or discard."

Teaching Your Children to be Resourcefull

Resourcefulness is a character quality that will give your children a strength to to find true prosperity, enabling them to remain contented while others stress and fret over what they do not have.

Encourage your children to think creatively about the objects and resources in their life. Let them know that there is an "inventor" in all of us if we will just think outside the box. Encourage them to think about the possible usefulness of items that are usually thrown away, but help them find the balance by not hoarding and by giving.

Try designing some projects to create a "resourceful mindset":

- use the resource of unscheduled time to do something productive, such as studying spelling words or reading a good book or writing a poem.
- Recycle
- Use objects that you usually throw away to make something useful.

1. For example, use cereal boxes to create magazine or catalog holders (cut one side diagonally after cutting off the top and cover with attractive wrapping paper or wallpaper.
2. Cover empty food cans with colorful cloth or paper to hold pencils and crayons.
3. Begin a compost pile for your flowers or vegetable garden. Add any raw vegetable, fruit, or garden trimmings.
4. Get old ice creams tubs from ice paper to use for wastepaper baskets.

- Calculate the amount saved by recycling rather than buying a new item. When a certain amount is saved, allow the children to have a special treat from that amount.

Remember to give!

Periodically clean out your house and give away extra or unused items to charity. Be sure the children take part with their own items and take them with you when you give the items away. They will remember this kind of activity as adults, perhaps more than the items they actually keep!

Resourcefulness Challenge~

Fix identical bags of discarded items (paper towel rolls, string, bits of wrapping paper, gum wrappers, soda cans, etc.) and give each child one bag. Provide glue and tape and let the children then build something with the items.
Have each child explain what he has built to the family.

Click Here for the Word Find answers

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