



Making the Character Connection with...

## Child Development

Being a person of good character means you follow the Six Pillars of Character<sup>SM</sup> every day. Enrolling in the child development project shows your interest in the future. It also indicates you may be thinking about the responsibility of babysitting. You can show you care for others by giving them toys or books you have created or you can demonstrate your respect for a healthy body by teaching others about healthy food choices. Each time you give of yourself and your talents to others you show that you are a person of good character. If you decide to enter your projects in the fair you have the responsibility to understand the rules and make sure you follow them and accept the judge's rulings (Responsibility, Fairness). In this project you will likely have the opportunity to work with young children. Remember, they watch what you do and will mimic your behavior. Be sure you serve as a good role model. As you work through your project think of these and other ways you can share what you learn in your Child Development project with others.

### **This Character Connection contains:**

- **Explanation of the Six Pillars of Character.**
- **Explanation of how the Six Pillars of Character relate to the Child Development project.**
- **Activities suggesting how to demonstrate good character while enhancing your knowledge about children.**
- **Questions to help you think of other ways to demonstrate good character in everyday life.**

## Character Connection: Child Development

Trustworthiness	Responsibility	Caring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Always complete your project</li> <li>✓ Be honest with your project leader and others taking the project</li> <li>✓ Stand by your project, even if it doesn't turn out the way you want</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Complete your project on time</li> <li>✓ Work hard - Put forth the best effort possible</li> <li>✓ Do what you say you will do; be where you say you will be</li> <li>✓ Use materials that are safe for children when making your projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do what you're good at; others will appreciate your expertise</li> <li>✓ Share your knowledge with others</li> <li>✓ Share what you have learned with other young people in the community who provide babysitting</li> </ul>
Respect	Fairness	Citizenship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Show the importance of making healthy choices by respecting your body with what you eat and the exercise you do</li> <li>✓ Show respect for different views</li> <li>✓ Value everyone's opinions and ideas</li> <li>✓ Treat others' projects the way you want your project treated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Treat children fairly based on what you have learned about the developmental stages of young people</li> <li>✓ Allow everyone to speak before making group decisions</li> <li>✓ Be consistent and accurate in recording information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Be a volunteer; help out whenever you can</li> <li>✓ Play by the rules of your local clubs and fairs</li> <li>✓ Don't try to cut corners - follow the rules</li> </ul>

# Character Connection: Child Development

**Activity:** Poison Look-alikes

## **DO:**

Sometimes it is really hard to tell when something is safe to eat and when it is poisonous or dangerous. Create a simple poison lookalike kit by pairing up the following items:

- Blue drink and window cleaner
- Oblong breath mints and caplet pain relievers
- Toothpaste and muscle cream or diaper rash ointment
- Eye drops and super glue
- Chocolate squares and chocolate flavored laxatives
- Root beer soda bottle and beer bottle
- Rubbing alcohol and water bottle

There is enough similarity in these items that you don't even have to remove the labels to show others the dangers these lookalikes can cause for young children who can't read. If you do remove the labels to make the identification of the products more difficult, be sure you have marked the bottles in some way to know what is in each bottle.

Share the Poison Look-alikes at an event that includes both parents and young people (Month of the Military Child event, 4-H Fair or Achievement Day). Explain how important it is to keep poisonous products away from children.

## **REFLECT:**

1. As you gathered your props for this activity, were you surprised by the number of products that could be mistaken for poisons?
2. Were those you talked to surprised by what they saw+?
3. What did you learn from this activity that will help you in this project or any time you work with children?

## **APPLY:**

This activity certainly emphasizes the importance of safety and keeping dangerous products away from children. There are a variety of safety issues for young children. What have you learned from this experience that you can use when considering other safety issues?

(4-H/Army Child & Youth Services Babysitting Course)



# Character Connection: Child Development

**Activity:** Child Care While You Meet

## **DO:**

Gather a group of your friends, maybe your Child Development Project group, and provide child care for an important upcoming meeting – maybe a PTA or PTO meeting, county 4-H event, or military family readiness group meeting. Be sure the parents understand that you are doing this service project as a part of a group which is learning about Child Development. It is important that you have one or two adults who will serve as supervisors for this event and let parents know that adults will be available if needed.

Prior to the event, collect everything you will need to give the children a positive and fun experience. Be sure to include:

- First Aid Kit
- Books
- Toys – make sure these are easily cleaned and sanitized
- Games and activities
- Needed supplies

Have a plan in place and practice any games or activities that you are unsure of.

## **REFLECT:**

1. What was the most difficult part of this activity? What can you do to make that part easier in the future?
2. How did you feel during planning, during the event, and after it was over? Did your feelings change as you moved through the process?
3. What was the reaction of the adults who used your child care service?

## **APPLY:**

This particular activity not only helped you use what you have learned about child development but also provided a service to others. Service and giving back to your community are important parts of being a person of character. Think about all of the skills you used in getting ready for and conducting this service event. Can you use some of these skills in the future? What are they?



# Character Connection: Child Development

**Activity:** Books and Bears

## **DO:**

Many times a toy, book or game can help a child remain calm when they are in scary situations. Bears and Books is one way you can help. Many local officials carry one or two toys or books in their vehicles to be used to comfort a child found in a stressful situation like a minor car accident. First contact your local police or fire department, ambulance service, or hospital to see if they would be willing to accept your donations and how many items they might be able to use. Encourage your friends, classmates, and fellow 4-H members to join you in collecting new or gently used toys, books, and games. Remember what you have learned in your project about toy safety and be sure you collect items that are really safe for young children. When you have collected the items, present them to the local officials and know that you are helping others in your community.

## **REFLECT:**

1. What steps did you take to make the Books and Bears project a success?
2. How did it make you feel to work on this project?
3. What comments did you receive from those who accepted your donations?

## **APPLY:**

Helping young children in stressful situations is very rewarding. You will likely never know who received a book or toy, but just know that it provided comfort. Can you think of other ways you can use what you learned during this activity? Could you start another worthwhile campaign? How did you feel when you went to talk with your local officials about this project? Were you scared or afraid they wouldn't listen? How can you use this experience every day?

