

A PARENT’S GUIDE TO FAIRNESS

Play by the rules. Take turns and share. Be open-minded. Listen to others. Don’t take advantage of others. Don’t blame others carelessly.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

- When you hear, “It’s not fair!” ask your child to define what is unfair about the situation. Usually when you hear this, it means your child didn’t receive something he/she thinks was deserved or an expectation hasn’t been met-whether real or imagined.
- Discuss the question “Does fair mean equal?” with your child. Talk about situations in school, home or the community where the answers may sometimes be “yes” and sometimes “no”.
- Set family goals. Have each member of the family complete the following sentence and post it where it will serve as a reminder: I will show fairness by: _____.

PARENTS CAN PROMOTE FAIRNESS

- Create a democratic family environment by providing opportunities for each family member to provide input on appropriate family topics and decisions.
- Embrace the uniqueness of each family member without making comparisons of specific areas of competence.
- Consistently apply pre-determined rules. Make expectations clear and predictable.
- Advocate and help others who are impacted by adversity.
- Involve children in developing rules they are to follow.

FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

The Key to Fairness: Pre-established rules, consistently applied.

TO HELP YOU TEACH THE SIX PILLARS

Focus Area: Music

Music, whether on the radio or CDs, can be a wonderful source of entertainment and education. As a parent, you need to be clear about your rules and expectations regarding what is appropriate music for your child. With upper elementary through high school youth, you need to listen to what they are listening to, review the lyrics and discuss the character of the artists. Music videos can be highly suggestive and sometimes inappropriate for young viewers. Your role as a parent is to monitor what your child is viewing and listening to, and then determine if the lessons being taught through music are the ones that match the values you want your child to have. For resources on children’s music, visit www.childrensmusicweb.com.

