

Dependability

Vs. Inconsistency

I WILL:

- keep my word
- be careful what I promise
- correct my mistakes
- pull my share of the load
- not have a bad attitude

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Fulfilling commitments even in the face of difficulty.

Dependability is a two-way street. We depend on people and things and there are people and things that depend on us. Being dependable means we recognize and overcome obstacles that get in the way of delivering on a promise - even if the obstacle is a result of someone else not being dependable to us.

On its most basic level, it means doing what we say we will do. At a deeper level, it also means saying and doing the right things. It is looking beyond ourselves to the community as a whole and realizing that our individual failures have an effect on others and sometimes can ripple beyond what we can immediately see.

This month, practice dependability by overcoming fears and obstacles to follow through on those promises and people to which we are committed.


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No Matter How You Say It

Seriedad

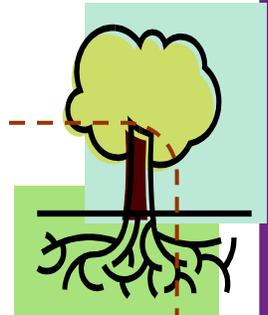
vs. Contradicción

Cumplir mi palabra
incluso si signifiqué
sacrificio inesperado



Go to the Root

De- is the Latin prefix meaning “down” or “from.” Combining this with the word pendere (“to hang”) creates a word picture of the term dependable—something reliable enough “to hang from.”



Sign Language

Check out the following website for the American Sign Language interpretation of the word Depend

Depend <https://www.handspeak.com/word/search/index.php?id=562>

Can you see in the sign the hanging reference from the Latin?

From Miriam Webster (www.merriam-webster.com)

Synonyms

calculable, good, reliable, responsible, safe, secure, solid, steady, sure, tried, tried-and-true, true, trustable, trustworthy, trusty

Antonyms

dodgy [*chiefly British*], uncertain, undependable, unreliable, unsafe, untrustworthy

Related Words

constant, devoted, faithful, fast, loyal, staunch (*also* stanch), steadfast, true-blue; honest, sincere, single-minded; infallible, unerring; bedrock, firm, sound, strong; effective, telling; attested, authenticated, confirmed, proven, valid, validated, verified; blameless, faultless, guiltless, impeccable, inerrant, irrepachable, unimpeachable, unquestionable

“People will accept your idea much more readily if you tell them Benjamin Franklin said it first.” -David H. Comins

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”

~ Benjamin Franklin

“Diamonds are only chunks of coal that stuck to their jobs.”

~Minnie Richard Smith

“The greatest ability is dependability.”

~Bob Jones

“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

~Theodore Roosevelt

“Don’t make excuses-make good.”

~Elbert Hubbard

“Depend on no man, on no friend but him who can depend on himself. He only who acts conscientiously toward himself, will act so toward others.”

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

“Where would you be without friends? The people to pick you up when you need lifting? We come from homes far from perfect, so you end up almost parent and sibling to your friends - your own chosen family. There's nothing like a really loyal, dependable, good friend. Nothing.”

~Jennifer Aniston

“I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.”

~Stephen Leacock

“The test of your character is what it takes to stop you.”

~Bob Jones, Sr.

Character Quotables

“Build for your team a feeling of oneness, of dependence on one another and of strength to be derived by unity.”

~Vince Lombardi

The Champion

“The average runner sprints until the breath in him is gone:

But the champion has the iron will that makes him carry on.

For rest, the average runner begs when limp his muscles grow

But the champion runs on leaden legs, his spirit makes him go.

The average man's complacent when he does his best to score,

But the champion does his best and then he does a little more.

~Author Unknown

“The heights by great men reached and kept Were not attained by sudden flight, But they, while their companions slept, Were toiling upward in the night.”

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“I never trust an executive who tends to pass the buck. Nor would I want to deal with him as a customer or a supplier.”

~James Cash Penney

“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.”

~Unofficial Postman’s Motto

“Dependability, integrity, the characteristic of never knowingly doing anything wrong, that you would never cheat anyone, that you would give everybody a fair deal. Character is a sort of an all-inclusive thing. If a man has character, everyone has confidence in him.”

~Omar N. Bradley

“A man who lacks reliability is utterly useless.”

~Confucius

If you are a man of dependability, you are worth more than if you were clever.

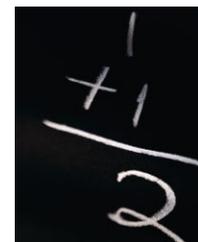
~Roy L. Smith

Curriculum Connection Mathematics

Significant digits and mathematical precision indicate how dependable a numerical answer can be. If you include more digits in your answer than what is significant for the data in the problem, then your answer is not dependable. If you round-off in an intermediate answer to a less significant digit than contained in your final answer, your answer is not dependable.

For more detail on this topic visit:

<http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/ntti/resources/lessons/significant/index.html>



John and Horace Dodge, Heroes of Dependability

John and Horace Dodge were brothers, born in Niles, Michigan to Daniel Rugg Dodge who owned a foundry and a machine shop. Growing up, the boys were inseparable. Even as adults, they stuck together working as machinists in various machine and engine shops. After Horace had patented his invention of an improved ball bearing, the brothers formed a partnership to produce a bicycle that used the new ball bearing. The venture was quite successful and led to their own machine shop in Detroit. Soon after, they were making automobile parts for both Ford and Oldsmobile. In

1914, they started to manufacture their own auto. They used their name, "Dodge Brothers" followed by "Reliable, Dependable, Sound" to market their products. Customers were impressed with the high quality of their cars. A marketing campaign coined the word "dependability" for



their advertising. The new word began appearing in dictionaries in the early 1930's. In all of their manufacturing endeavors, the Dodge brothers modeled that working hard and building a reputation for dependability was a path to success in the manufacturing industry.

For more information visit:

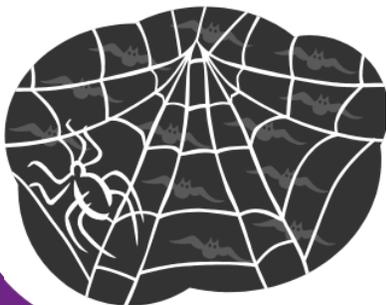
www.uniquecarsandparts.com/heritage_dodge.htm

Team~Building Activity

Building a culture of good character requires building the class into a community. Here is this month's teambuilding activity:

Net~working

Have all of the students stand in a circle, shoulder to shoulder then take 2 giant steps backwards. Give one student a ball of yarn. Have them unwind a portion, hold the end then toss the ball of yarn across the circle to someone else. Upon catching the yarn ball, the next person unwinds a portion and holds onto to the yarn then tosses the yarn ball to someone else. At this point there are now 3 people connected by the yarn. Continue in this way until all students are holding onto the yarn ball. As each person tosses the yarn ball you can have them share something about themselves such as favorite book, sport, movie, food, etc. After they are all connected ask what happens when somebody pulls back or drops their string ~ everyone is affected. In a community we all depend on one another. When one of us fails, we all feel it so it is important to help build everyone up to make the community stronger.



Car and Driver

This activity needs an open space in which to play. The students should be paired up. One person in each pair is blindfolded. (Toilet paper wound around the head makes a good disposable blindfold.) This person is "the car". The person who can see is "the driver". Drivers should stand behind their car and grip the tops of their shoulders so that they can steer them. Cars should put their hands straight out in front of them as the bumper. The object of the game is to move around the area (define limits) and not run into anyone or anything. Declare a slow speed limit so that driving is not reckless or too fast. Allow them to drive for 3 – 5 minutes depending on the size of the area and the rowdy factor. Call an All Stop and have the car and driver reverse roles. (Note: regardless of the type of blindfold you use, you can not reuse the blindfold as this can transmit eye infections.) Start the group again and allow them the same amount of time as before. When the time is up, ask the students which role they liked better, car or driver? How did it feel to be dependent on someone else? How did it feel to have others dependent on you?



Who do you depend on?

Give each student a picture of a simple outline of a person. On the inside, they should identify those people that depend on them. On the outside, write the people that they depend on. Both lists could include: bus driver, teacher, cafeteria worker, doctor, parents, coaches, referees, club leaders, teammates, classmates, etc.



For each of those whom they depend on, list what could happen if that person weren't dependable. What would happen if the bus didn't come every morning? Then turn it around and have them list what would happen if they themselves were not dependable, what would happen to those who depend on them? What if they didn't do the work for a group project for school?

SLEEPING THROUGH THE STORM

Read the story below to the class. Use it as a discussion starter about being prepared. What does it mean to be prepared for class? How does not being prepared affect the rest of the students? How can you prepare for the morning so that you can get to school on time? How does one person being late affect the class as a whole? How do you prepare for a sports practice? How does not being prepared affect the team? How do you prepare for keeping your promise to do a chore at home? How does not doing your chore affect the family?



Sleeping Through the Storm
By: Author Unknown

A young man applied for a job as a farmhand. When the farmer asked for his qualifications, he said, "I can sleep when the wind blows." This puzzled the farmer. But he liked the young man, and hired him. A few days later, the farmer and his wife were awakened in the night by a violent storm. They quickly began to check things out to see if all was secure. They found that the shutters of the farmhouse had been securely fastened. A good supply of logs had been set next to the fireplace. The young man slept soundly. The farmer and his wife then inspected their property. They found that the farm tools had been placed in the storage shed, safe from the elements. The tractor had been moved into the garage. The barn was properly locked. Even the animals were calm. All was well. The farmer then understood the meaning of the young man's words, "I can sleep when the wind blows." Because the farmhand did his work loyally and faithfully when the skies were clear, he was prepared for the storm when it broke. So when the wind blew, he was not afraid. He could sleep in peace.

GOIN' ON A BEAR HUNT..

The "Goin' on a Bear Hunt" song is a favorite of campers and scouts. If you are not familiar with the song, try to "borrow" some older students who are scouts to lead the song. There are many versions of the song. One is compiled below that lists different ways of overcoming obstacles. The song is chanted as a repeat song so you or a group of scouts say each line, and the class repeats it while doing the motions. Scouts may know other versions so be sure to print this one so it includes the obstacles. After you have finished the song, review the obstacles. For each one, several solutions are thought of and then rejected until the right one comes to mind. Relate this to overcoming obstacles that prevent you from keeping a promise.

(Chorus)

*We're goin' on a bear hunt.
Gonna catch a big one.
I'm not scared.*

*I see a lake
Can't go under it
Can't go around it
Can't go over it
Gotta go through it.
Let's swim (Do
swimming motions)*



(Repeat Chorus)

*I see a big mountain
Can't go under it
Can't go around it
Can't go through it
Gotta go over it.
Let's climb. (Do running until you hit the top
leaning backwards as you go up and leaning
forwards as you go down)*

(Repeat Chorus)

*I see a big log.
Can't go over it
Can't go around it*

*Can't go through it
Gotta go under it.
Let's crawl. (Crouch
down like you are going under a bridge)
(Repeat Chorus)*

*I see a big log.
Can't go over it
Can't go around it
Can't go through it
Gotta go under it.
Let's crawl. (Crouch down like you are going
under a bridge)*

(Repeat Chorus)

*I see a cave.
Can't go under it
Can't go around it
Can't go over it
Gotta go in it.
Let's go (look side to side as you 'enter' the
cave')*

*It's dark
It's creepy.
Stop, I feel something.
It's furry.
It's big.
It has eyes.*

*IT'S A
BEEEEEEEEEEEEAAAAAAARRRRRRRR!!!!*

(Really fast)

*Get out of the cave (look side to side)
Go under the log (duck down)
Climb the mountain (run up and down)
Swim fast. (swim)
We're almost home.
Whew...we made it home safe.*



Croskey's Corner

Several years ago, *Character First!* had a story on its website about Dependability. In A.D. 79, Mount Vesuvius erupted and buried the city of Pompeii. Archeologists uncovered the remains of some 2,000 inhabitants fleeing or seeking shelter in attics. But one soldier remained at his post, his hand gripping the hilt of his sword. From the standpoint of military Dependability, this soldier was Dependably brave to the point of death. Not only did he refuse to leave his post, he was engulfed by lava and died in the effort. I believe the U.S. has many soldiers such as this today, some of them from the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area. They are Dependable soldiers who pull their share of the load - and then some. Our nation benefits from their Dependability. But, the first responders, sanitation workers, teachers, indeed, all workers who show up reliably every day benefit our country as well.

But the story also got me to thinking about those who must decide if or when to leave their "posts." One of the "I will..." statements is to "Be careful what I promise." I think this means that I should consider how far I am willing to go in carrying out a promise I make. Until others decide it's time to leave? Until I am the last one standing? Until death? It also means to me that I should be careful not to commit myself to projects I cannot complete, or which interfere with my previous commitments. The lesson may then be that we should not commit to "posts" which are not worthwhile, or not matched to our skills, or which stretch us to the point that we are not as Dependable about our other commitments. Conversely, a spouse who remains in an abusive relationship might certainly be described as Dependable. At what cost to self? And for what greater good? A teacher who has high standards (read: "expectations") may be reluctant to revise those expectations for students who are less able in that skill area. Dependability can degenerate into pigheadedness when it is not tempered with other Character Qualities such as Cautiousness (Knowing how important right timing is in accomplishing right actions), Discernment (Understanding the deeper reasons why things happen), and Flexibility (Willingness to change plans or ideas according to the direction of my authorities). NOTE: It is hard enough to adhere to these Character Qualities by themselves; it gets even stickier trying to follow several overlapping Qualities at once. But, maybe I am over-thinking this. Maybe we mostly know when we need to be Dependable, steadfast, enduring and "there" for others. It's doing it that is hardest.

Woody Allen is reported to have said, "95% of Life is Just Showing Up." For me, one has to be there in order to be Dependable. I am not sure my generation understands this. But people from the era that Tom Brokaw called "The Greatest Generation" know how to be there when it counts. I am reminded of the former secretary at Loveland Intermediate School, Margaret Keifer. Margaret taught me a great deal about "showing up." When a baby shower is held, she is there. When someone gets married, she's there. When a friend dies, she goes to the visitation and the funeral. When someone has a bake sale, she shows up with brownies. She visits the graves of family members on Memorial Day, makes it to retirement parties, and stays to clean up afterwards. Sometimes, when I don't want to have to attend something like this, I think, "What would Margaret do?" Then I pull on my shoes and get moving. Oh, by the way, Margaret is 90.

Dependability suggests that we need to Be There when called on, But what if we fail the "Be There" test? Well, I remember from my childhood playing Putt-Putt and other types of miniature golf. Sometimes, my fellow players would allow me a "Do Over." In other words, if I took a shot, and messed it up, I might be allowed to take the shot again. What a grace-filled gift! I hear people say, though, that there are no "Do Overs" in life. I guess that must follow from "You only go around once," "You only get one shot," "Don't blow your only chance," or "You never get a second chance to make a first impression." Well, I went to the dentist the other day. They had to take an impression of my upper jaw. It got messed up the first time. I said to the technician, "I guess I made a bad first impression." Tee hee. Know what? They made another one. We got a "Do Over." I suspect that there are more "Do Over" chances in life than we are led to believe. This is less from the "Go around once" school of living, and more from the "Do it til you get it right" approach. So, If you didn't succeed in Being Dependably There when your sacrifice was needed, it's usually not too late. Be There now. Go ahead.

Bill Croskey is a retired
school psychologist
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Schools

For the Family

We are studying the character quality of **Dependability**: Fulfilling commitments even in the face of difficulty.

To practice Dependability I will:

- keep my word
- be careful what I promise
- correct my mistakes
- pull my share of the load
- not have a bad attitude



Family Activity:

Old Faithful

Old Faithful is a cone geyser located in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, United States. It is a highly predictable geothermal feature and has erupted every 44 to 125 minutes since 2000.

Share some pictures or video of the famous geyser. Talk about the importance of predictability as it relates to dependability. What kind of a nickname would you give to a geyser that wasn't reliable? Discuss what it looks like for a parent, a child, a sibling, a teammate, etc to be reliable. If each person got a nickname for their reliability - what would it be? (Don't hand out nicknames as derogatory ones aren't helpful.) Point out that striving to be "Old Faithful" in our promises is a good thing.



<https://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/exploreoldfaithful.htm>

Other ways to teach character in the home:

- Display the character quality and definition in a prominent place such as on the refrigerator or let each child decorate it for their bedroom door.
- At the dinner table ask if anyone noticed anyone (not just family members) demonstrating the character quality (or not demonstrating it).
- Point out news stories where character was or was not involved.
- Review the "I wills" and see if there are specific actions you can add to this list.
- During car trips, challenge the kids by describing scenarios and having them identify if it describes being the quality or being the opposite.
- Praise with character by recognizing the character quality involved rather than the achievement.
- For more ideas visit www.charactercincinnati.org/education.php



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Character...It Starts With Me!

Character in the Classroom *Continuously*

There are many ways that you can teach the Character Quality of Month. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Ask students to make posters to hang in the classroom or around the school.
- Challenge students to find quotes, news stories, current (or classic) songs or movies that portray the character quality of the month. Be sure to share these with the class and “archive” these to use in future years.
- Add the character trait of the month to the spelling word list. (Even if it is posted in the classroom to copy!)
- Offer for students to make a video or write a rap that demonstrates the Character Quality of the Month.
- If you teach younger students, see if you can “borrow” some older students to lead your students in an activity or switch the roles and have the younger students “teach” a rhyme to the older students.
- If you teach older students, you can be the initiator in the previous activities.
- Invite local business leaders or small business owners to talk about the importance of a character trait. If you teach older students, aim to get a representative from a business that typically hires teens so that they can relate the importance of good character when applying for and *keeping* a job.
- Men and women in uniform usually make impressive guest speakers. Police departments, fire departments and military recruiting offices are usually willing to come into a classroom. Do not be afraid to give them specific requests or guidelines for speaking so that it is pertinent to the lessons of the month.
- Always have a generic character activity planned and ready to go that you can use as filler when you have time to kill or that a substitute teacher can use in your absence.