

Teaching trustworthiness: integrity

Teaching Trustworthiness: Integrity

"Character is who you are when no one is looking."

- H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

When others trust you, they believe that you'll do what you say you'll do and keep your promises. You show integrity when what you believe matches what you do.

Figuring out the "right thing to do" can be difficult. Imagine that a cashier gives you too much change. Are you honest and return the extra money or are you dishonest and keep the money? Sometimes the choice that matches our values could be costly or inconvenient. Here's a checklist to use when you are making decisions.

Integrity-In-Action Check List

Ask yourself these questions:	YES	NO
Golden Rule Test: If the situation was reversed, is this how I would want to be treated?		
Conscience Test: Will I feel good about this afterwards - no regrets, no guilt?		
Parent Test: Will my parents be proud of this?		
Front-Page Test: Would I want this reported on the front page of the newspaper?		
What-If-Everybody-Did-This Test: Would I want to live in a world where everybody did this?		

What if it is still not clear what to do?

- Stop!
- Think it over some more
- Seek additional insight from people whose character you respect.

Discussion starter

Ask your child what they think: is there harm in a little white lie? Here's one way to decide. If upon learning of the lie, would the person lied to thank you for caring or feel betrayed or manipulated?

Check out more tips on teaching character at [TheRayCenter.org](https://www.drake.edu/the-ray-center)