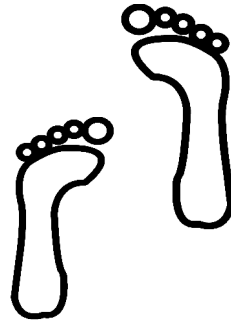


# CHARACTER COUNTS! K CARNIVAL

A wonderful way to take CHARACTER COUNTS! into the community is to hold a CHARACTER COUNTS! Carnival in a local mall. Spring break would be a good time for it since there will be many shoppers in the mall and also because young people will have time off from school to construct the physical parts of the displays and to man each station.

Ken Newbury constructed an abbreviated setup for us as a part of his presentation at the CHARACTER COUNTS! Regional Conference at South Bend, IN last fall. It is from his model that these ideas came.

THEME: "Walking toward Character"



OBJECTIVE: To provide a contact with parents and children of the community and to provide an activity for each pillar of character and decision making that will help the child to understand what building character is all about.

LOCATION: Inside a local mall or out on the sidewalks around a mall. (Not every town has a mall, so use your imagination and available resources to put this on.)

TIME: Select a time when there will be lots of parents and children passing through the area. You also want to keep in mind that you will need a time when lots of young people will be available to work with you.

Time for a child to complete the Walk Toward Character should be about 25 minutes. Encourage parents to leave the child in your care, if situation and circumstances permit, and be at the end of the path when the child has finished.

SETUP: You will need an area large enough to set up 7 activity areas—one for each pillar of the six pillars of character and one for decision making. Construct some type of display for each pillar. This can be as simple as a table for each activity or

it might include a separate booth for each.

Make the displays colorful and attractive and be sure that there is some display of six pillar language attached to each area. CHARACTER COUNTS! posters could be a great part of each display.

Be certain to have several young people who are CHARACTER COUNTS! trainers at each station to help the children with the activity.

Create a pathway of large footprints. Using one of the patterns in this booklet, design large footprints, write one six pillar word on each of them --trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness caring and citizenship, laminate them and attach them to the floor to form a pathway into the area and from one display to another.

ACTIVITIES: At each display, a child will participate in a short activity illustrating the pillar at that station.

Examples: Trustworthiness-Trust walk. Blindfold one child and let another direct that child around a small obstacle course by giving verbal directions only.

Respect-Make doorknob hangers from construction paper or poster paper ahead of time. Have children write or draw a picture of ways they will show respect to their parents or other members of their family. Allow them to take the hanger home and give it to that person to hang on their bedroom doorknob.

Responsibility- Have children write or draw a picture of one chore they will be willing to help with in their home. Ask them to take the card home and share with members of their family what they will help with at home.

Fairness-Provide cookies and small plastic knives. Pair one child with another child. Give one child the cookie and plastic knife. Instruct him to cut the cookie in two pieces. Once the cookie is cut, ask the other child to choose first which piece he/she would like to have.

Caring - Provide white index cards, crayons and/or pencils. Have each child who comes by the display write a cheerful message or draw a picture on the card to be given to children in a hospital or to elderly people in retirement or nursing homes or who may be homebound.

Citizenship - Have community helpers at the display dressed in the uniform of their profession--a fireman, a policeman, a mail carrier, etc. Have them talk with the children about their jobs and what they do each day to make our world a better place.

Decision making- Choose decision-making activities from each of the

“Exercising Character” kits for ages 4-6, 6-9 and 9-11.

**Whatever the activity**, have young people in charge talk to the children about the pillar at their station . Also try to have a handout or something the child can take with them to share with family and friends what they have learned.

At the end of the pathway, also give them printed certificates with their name written on it that states that they have completed all seven activities at the CHARACTER COUNTS! Carnival where they learned about trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship and how to make good decisions.

SAMPLE FOOTPRINT FOR “Walking Toward Character” path at CHARACTER COUNTS! Carnival. ***Enlarge and reproduce right and left feet, label with Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship. Tape to floor of carnival area, one foot slightly ahead of the other, as if someone has been walking there and left footprints. Create a path for walking from one activity to the next throughout the entire exhibit.***

