



that's what we're made of

Character Counts Fairness

For all of the Character Counts news letter inserts please visit www.4h.uwyo.edu

What is Fairness?

Only one thing is clear when it comes to fairness: it is often a matter of perception. Although some decisions are clearly unfair, there is often more than one fair choice.

To ensure that choices are fair to as many people as possible, the rules of decision-making process should be very clear to all involved and everyone should abide by the rules. Everyone must be treated the same under the rules.

More Fairness Do's and Don'ts:

- ◆ Do listen to others and try to understand what they are feeling and saying
- ◆ Do consider all the facts, including opposing views, before making a decision
- ◆ Don't let personal preferences, prejudices or other feelings improperly interfere with decisions which should be based on merit.

From charactercounts.org

Clover Connection

- **Head** - Consider all the facts, including different views, before making a decision
- **Heart** - Think about how your actions will effect others
- **Hands** - Take turns
- **Health** - Treating other's fairly is good for everyone



"Fairness is not an attitude. It's a professional skill that must be developed and exercised"- Brit Hume

Fairness in 4-H: 4-H Club Activity - "From a Different Perspective"

Youth have a heightened awareness of fairness, yet they are often oblivious to the fact that what seems fair to them is not fair to all parties involved. This activity will help members begin to think about seeing something from someone else's point of view—from a different perspective. Begin by talking about what perspective means. Tell members, *A perspective is a way of looking at something or thinking about it. People often have different perspectives even if they are looking at or thinking about the same thing. Your perspective can influence what you think is fair.* Divide members into small groups (remember to mix up ages) and tell them you will be reading a short fairy tale to them. Assign a different character to each group. Ask the group to think about what was fair and not fair based upon the character assigned to their group as you read the fairy tale. After they have talked about it in their group, have one member share their perspective of fairness based upon the character to the whole group. You could also have the groups talk about situations where the same thing could happen in 4-H and what we might be able to do to make sure all our activities are as fair as possible to everyone.

Like this activity? Find more like it in the "Good Ideas Book" at your local Extension Office