



that's what we're made of

Fairness

“That’s not fair!!” Sound familiar? It’s commonly heard from people of all ages. We often think of situations that put us at a disadvantage as “unfair.” Although some decisions are clearly unfair, the fact is that there is usually more than one fair choice.

Being fair means you:

- **Play by the rules**
- **Take turns and share**
- **Keep an open-mind and listen to others**
- **Avoid taking advantage of others.**

Character Counts Fairness

Lesson on Fairness

Issues of fairness will be a part of daily life. Help your child to understand that decisions should be made carefully, honestly and objectively. Make sure they understand that you want fairness from her just as she wants fairness from you and others.

Again, modeling fairness is one of the best ways to teach fairness to your child – no matter their age. Since applying the rules of fairness is not always easy or clear, it is important that your child see you making the effort to be open, honest and objective in making decisions.



“It is not fair to ask of others what you are unwilling to do yourself” ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

Fairness Activity

What would you do? One of your 4-H projects is sheep or beef. A requirement for showing market animals at the State Fair is to have a nose print of the animal made several months before the show. While at the Fair you overhear someone saying they switched their animal after the spring nose print was made with a prize-winning animal recently purchased from another state. What would you do? Who is affected by the decision you make? Who is affected by the decision made by the other exhibitor? Why do you think someone would make this kind of switch?

4-H Connections

Fairness is often a matter of perception. Although some decisions are clearly unfair, the fact is there is usually more than one fair choice. Being fair means you:

- Listen to others and try to understand what they are feeling and saying.
- Consider all the facts, including opposing views.
- Use the same standards for everyone in the same situation.