

## Tower of Trust

### Character Skills

- Trustworthiness
- Respect

### SEL Skills

- Self-Awareness
- Responsible Decision-Making
- Social Awareness

### Academic Skills

- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Curiosity and Passion

Students will learn about building trust by citing ways they can earn it. They then illustrate these ideas on index cards, which are affixed to small boxes to build a Tower of Trust.

### Materials

- One index card for each child
- Small boxes or other cube-shaped items to use as building blocks (one for each child)
- Tape
- Enough crayons for all the children to color at the same time

### Discussion and Activity

- If your mom asks you to pick up your toys, can she count on you to do it?
- Can she count on you to pick up those toys, even if she isn't looking?
  - People with good character do good things, even when their parents aren't looking. When you do good things over and over again, even

when parents and teachers aren't looking, you earn trust. Nobody is trusted automatically. When your parents and teachers realize that you have a habit of doing good things without being asked, then they will let you do more things on your own.

- What are some things you can do to show your parents you can be trusted?
- Distribute index cards and crayons and ask students to draw pictures of themselves being trustworthy. Ask students to share their pictures with the rest of the group.
  - Tell students that you will be using these trustworthy actions to build a "trust tower."
- Tape each card to a building block (cut the cards to reduce their size if necessary), and carefully stack them to form a pyramid-shaped tower.
  - Point out that building a tower is like building trust - it takes several blocks (acts of trustworthiness) to build a big tower (a trustworthy reputation).
- Ask students if it is easy or hard to break trust? What about the tower? Will it be easy or hard to break the tower?
  - What if you tell your caregiver that you picked up all your toys, and they find them hidden under the rug? What will that do for the trust you've built?
  - Illustrate how it weakens trust by carefully pulling a block from the tower.
  - What if you tell your caregiver that you ate your green beans and then they find them wadded up in your napkin? What will that do for the trust you've built? Again, illustrate how it weakens trust by pulling another block from the tower.

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- Continue with examples until your tower crumbles.
  - Now it's even harder to build trust because we have to clean up all of this mess before we can get started building again!
- Conclude the activity by asking students:
  - Will you keep this tower in mind to help you remember to build trust?
  - What good things are you going to do to build trust with your parents? Your teachers? Your baby-sitters? Your brothers and sisters?
  - Remember to keep doing good things to build trust even when no one is looking.

## Definitions

### Trustworthiness:

- Be honest, don't deceive, cheat, or steal
- Have integrity; do what you say you'll do
- Keep your promises
- Be loyal; stand by your values

### Respect:

- Follow the Golden Rule
- Be accepting of differences
- Be courteous to others
- Deal peacefully with anger, insults, disagreements
- Be considerate of others' feelings

### Self-Awareness

Identify and understand emotions, values, attitudes, motivations, mindsets, and personal attributes

### Responsible Decision-Making

Make decisions based on rationality, ethics, and effectiveness

### Social Awareness

Assess the feelings of others and be sensitive to the feelings and needs of others

### Critical and Creative Thinking

Acquire, remember, understand, and apply knowledge

### Curiosity and Passion

Enthusiastic to understand more about themselves, others, and the world around them

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These materials are presented by:



The Robert D. and  
Billie Ray Center

2507 University Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50311  
Phone: 515-271-1910  
Email: [raycenter@drake.edu](mailto:raycenter@drake.edu)  
[TheRayCenter.org](http://TheRayCenter.org)  
[CharacterCounts.org](http://CharacterCounts.org)

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