



## **HOW TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN**

- **Do your share to make your school, your community, and the world a better place. .**
- **Take responsibility for what goes on around you.**
- **Participate in community service.**
- **Help take care of the environment.**
- **Be a good neighbor.**
- **Treat other people with respect and dignity.**
- **Follow the rules of your family, your school, and your society.**

## **EDUCATIONAL GOALS**

### **CHILDREN LEARN:**

- That good citizens do their part to make their community a good place to live.
- That they have the power to make a positive difference in the world.

1. What does it mean to be a good citizen? Have your class brainstorm a list of do's and don'ts for citizenship. Ask for specific examples of each behavior they identify. Compare their list with the one at the top of this page.

2. Take the rules from #1, above, and turn them into role-play situations. The kids can act them out themselves or use puppets. Role-play poor citizenship, and then, good citizenship. Have the group critique each of the role-plays.
3. Have your older students go to an internet search engine (e.g., Google) and type in "kids making a difference." They will find countless inspiring examples of how young people have made their communities and the world a better place. Have them select stories they like and present them to the class and tell why they chose them. Do these stories give them any ideas about things they might like to do? If your students are pre-readers, do the search yourself and select stories to read to them.
4. Have your students visit this website <[www.goodcharacter.com](http://www.goodcharacter.com)> and click on "Opportunities for Action." There they will find opportunities to become involved in community service projects and other activities relating to citizenship and civic responsibility.
5. Have the class identify needs in the school or community, and plan a service project to meet those needs. For guidance in planning a service project, visit [www.goodcharacter.com](http://www.goodcharacter.com) and click on "service learning."
6. Have a class discussion about heroes. Have kids select their heroes and write about them. Introduce the idea of heroes as people who do things to help others. For ideas about how to expand this activity visit [www.giraffe.org/k12\\_3.html](http://www.giraffe.org/k12_3.html)
7. Are you doing a really cool eco-project at your school? If so, visit Captain Planet™ Foundation's website, and the Captain may be able to assist in providing the seed money to get your project growing. Go to: [www.captainplanetfdn.org](http://www.captainplanetfdn.org)