



## CHARACTER



Composed of **moral compass** – having a clear sense of right or wrong; **Integrity** – thinking through decisions, and aligning beliefs and actions; **Fairness** – treating everyone with equal consideration. Character guides our choices in every situation.

### Role-Model

- Act in a way that reflects your values.
- Start conversations about how your sense of right and wrong helps you make decisions. Follow through on the commitments and promises you make with your Little.
- Treat everyone with equal consideration, especially in the presence of your Little.

### Actively Listen

- Seek to learn about your Little and his/her family's values and belief system. Withhold judgment if your Little presents a belief that you disagree with. Explore the reasons behind his/her beliefs.
- Explore your Little's actions by asking open-ended questions about how his/her values played a role in the decision.
- Ask your Little, when appropriate, to take on the perspective of others so he/she can think through all sides of an issue.
- Compliment your Little's actions that showcase his/her values or exhibit integrity or fairness.
- Talk through your Little's thinking and reasons for making choices, especially after a lapse in judgment. Affirm your Little's power and capability to act with character.

### Provide Opportunities

- Explore good and bad examples of behavior by using current events or movie plots.
- Provide ways for your Little to be a good winner/loser by playing games. If a Little is cheating or quitting, lightly encourage good character. If this is not working, calmly explain that you are not interested in playing unfairly and pursue another activity.
- Take advantage of moments, when they arise, to question and talk about stereotypes and preconceived beliefs about people, places, gender or social class. Ask questions and let your Little explain his/her attitudes and beliefs. Ask permission to share your beliefs too.