

November Building Blocks: Loyalty & Cooperation



*I'll wag my tail when you're feeling bad.
I'll cheer you up if you're kinda sad.
I'm honest and fair, and my word is true.
When others run out, I'll be there for you.
LOYALTY'S a trait built upon trust.
Others must see you as truthful and just.
I'm telling you now, when the going gets tough,
LOYALTY'S important. No amount is too much.*



*I'm one in a million in our hive.
It looks confused as we all strive.
We buzz around throughout the day.
COOPERATION'S our sweet way.
Work as one in all you do.
When you help others, they'll help you.
Seek to know what someone needs.
Then pitch right in and you'll **SUCCEED**.*

*(Excerpts taken from the book,
Inch & Miles: The Journey to Success)*

Being Loyal to Values and Beliefs

It's easy for anyone to pen a definition of success, but it isn't as easy to live life by that definition. However, Coach Wooden has always believed that in order to be a strong leader, he must set a good example. Coach Wooden created his definition of success in 1934, long before he became a famous basketball coach. However, when fame and lucrative endorsement deals came his way, he remained loyal to his humble belief of success, the same definition your children are learning now:

Success isn't having trophies or toys. It isn't a medal or friends of your choice. What is success? That's easy to see. It's trying to be the best you can be!

After Coach Wooden led his teams to great victories, he was offered many gifts and product endorsements. However, he would usually kindly turn them down, reasoning that if he didn't feel comfortable with something, it didn't matter how much money he would be paid, he wouldn't do it. He said, "I may not have their money, but I do have my peace of mind." Coach Wooden felt that it was more important to be loyal to his values and beliefs than it was to be a man of wealth.

Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success teaches that **loyalty** and **cooperation** are two traits that are needed to complete the foundation of a successful character.

A journey is really just a lot of small steps. Start by taking these steps with your family:

1. Build up loyalty at home. Teach your child how to resolve conflicts with respect, honesty, and kindness.
2. Model loyalty. Teach your child that he or she can show loyalty to classmates by being kind.
3. Help your child learn how to be loyal to the environment. Teach him or her to pick up trash, recycle, save water, and conserve energy.

Source: Premier, a member of the School Specialty Family

"What is right is more important than who is right."
~John Wooden~