

DEFINING ETHICAL VALUES

Prework for Students: If students seem to need group skills building and awareness, they should complete some or all of the exercises in the previous section, and/or explore some activities in the *Elementary Decision Skills K–2* curriculum.

OBJECTIVE

By the end of this lesson, students will understand the meaning of *ethics* and be able to identify ethical values.

OPENING

“Values are an important aspect to character, to getting along, and to decision making. Today we are going to begin an exploration of ethical values by learning to identify them.”

ACTIVITIES

1. Ethical Values and Other Kinds of Values
2. Class Graphic: Categorizing Values
3. Character Traits: Famous People
4. Character Traits in Traditional Literature

CLOSURE AND TRANSITION

“Now that you have learned to identify ethical values, we will explore how they are used to create a set of values for our use in the classroom.”

KEY WORDS

- Ethical Values
- Character Traits
- Nonethical Values

A NOTE TO TEACHERS

While your students may readily understand the concept of values, defining ethical values takes a little practice. For adults, our standard test is: “If Johnny isn’t [value], is he unethical?” This test is aimed at helping adults get at the fundamental ethical values that underlie many other kinds of values.

