

discretion

recognizing and avoiding words, actions and attitudes that could result in undesirable consequences

sticks, stones and digital images

discretion n 1: showing prudence and circumspection; 2: judicious in one's conduct or speech, esp. with regard to respecting privacy or maintaining silence about something of a delicate nature.

Corporate no-blogging policies and educating young people on the dangers of "sexting" only work until the next technology comes along, or until someone finds a way to avoid detection, and the technological issues sometimes distract from the age-old human issue-discretion.

Everyone knows how one indiscreet comment can undermine years of trust and even ruin a career. Many know what it's

like to receive a thoughtless or malicious comment, and may have regretted saying something inappropriate. Cell phones, text messaging, and Twitter just make it easier to spread and harder to retract.

Ask yourself if you're thinking correctly before you speak or act. A question, even an antagonistic question, is easier to take back than a false accusation.

Pick words carefully. Communication is less about what you mean and more about how the other person understands. Do not say something to others you would not say to a person's face.

monitor your words and attitudes



Check your attitude regularly, and make sure it lines up with what really matters. When you feel upset, keep your mouth shut. Let your emotions settle down so that you can resolve problems constructively.

Set the example. Look for ways to benefit others. You might not feel like you have much influence, but you will affect someone.

Learn from your mistakes. Criticism can be painful to hear. Instead of reacting to the person who criticizes you, listen, change what you should change and move on.

“Give every man thine ear but few thy voice; take each man’s censure, but reserve thy judgment.”

–William Shakespeare

discretion vs recklessness

discretion is:

choosing my words carefully

- practicing good manners
- not making fun of others
- considering the consequences
- staying away from trouble

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Topeka City of Character May 2010

From the executive director

We had a fabulous day for our Character Fair at the Zoo in April. The weather was sunny and not too hot.

Attendance was good with 1599 enjoying the day at the Zoo.

Prizes were given as door prizes and we were able to give away a bicycle and a GPS to two winners of the Character Quest drawing.

We also enjoyed reading all of the essays about how the character qualities can be used to make the

planet a better place to live. The winning essay talked about the responsibility we share to take care of our resources and care for others. A \$100.00 savings bond certificate from Intrust Bank was awarded to the author of this essay.

Cindy Patton

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Thanks to all of our sponsors for making Character Fair at the Zoo possible last month.



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Good character is the key to success!