



## Character Education

# All About Generosity

## Why Is It Important?

One of the most powerful principles we can instill into our children is to be generous. We can teach our children to be generous with our belongings, be willing to go the extra mile and share and give unconditionally to someone else. We can model generosity to our children when we are generous with our time, our attitudes towards others, our possessions, our money, and our encouragement towards others. It is sometimes one of the hardest characteristics to develop in our children, as let's face it, it can be hard to be selfless. Patience and modeling on your part will go a long way toward helping your child develop a spirit of generosity and to discover that giving can be the best gift of all.

## Islamic Corner:

الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً  
فَلَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ ﴿٢٧٤﴾

Transliteration: alladhīna yunfiqūna amwālahum bi-al-layli wal-nahāri sirran wa‘alāniyatan  
falahum ajruhum ‘inda rabbihim walā khawfun ‘alayhim walā hum yahzanūna

Translation: Those who spend their wealth (in Allah's cause) by night and day, in secret and in public, they shall have their reward with their Lord. On them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve (2:274).

## Practice It!

Demonstrate different forms of generosity by participating in gift-giving, either by contributing money towards charity, helping to make a gift, or doing an "act of service" for a family member. Acts of service can include doing a chore for a sibling without them knowing, telling a joke to help brighten someone's mood, or sharing a special dessert with another family member.

## Praise It!

Children will naturally do nice things for others from time to time. If you notice a nice gesture, like sharing a toy, giving a compliment or helping to clear the dining table without being prompted, praise your child for the behavior. Acknowledging even the smallest movement towards generosity with positive recognition will make a child more likely to continue doing it.

## Talk About It!

Here are some points to help you talk about generosity with your child:

- Tell me about a time someone was generous to you. How did it make you feel?
- Is generosity something that is hard for you or easy? What are some reasons it can be hard to be generous?
- What would the world be like if everyone were more generous?