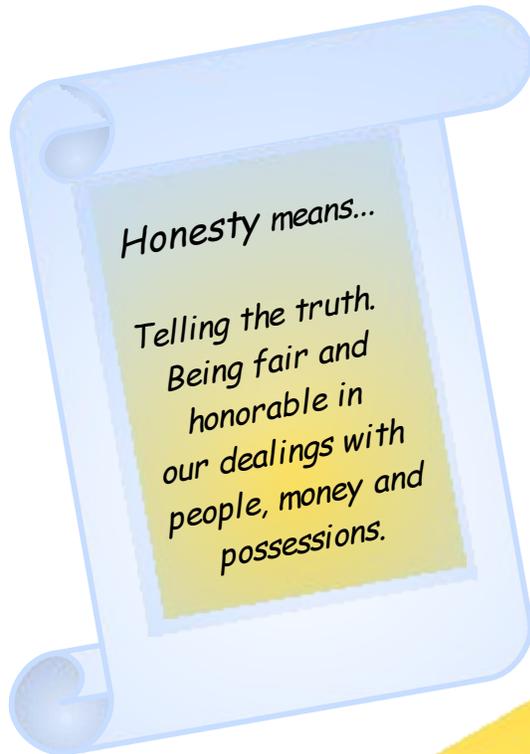


# Guideline 6 : Honesty



Humility	Respect
Patience	Forgiveness
Contentment	Gratitude
Delight	Responsibility
Kindness	Principles
▶ Honesty 6	Aspiration
Generosity	Service
Thoughtful Speech	Courage
16 Guidelines for Life www.16Guidelines.org	

## Character Guide: Hodi Honesty

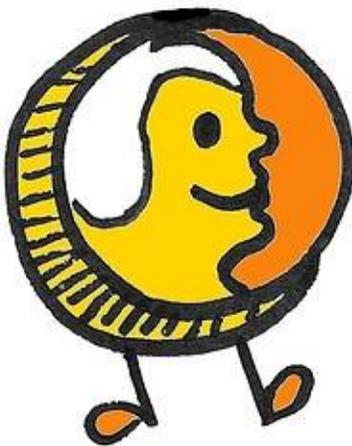


**Hodi trades fairly  
and tells the truth.**



The guides' positive chants help you to remember the most important ideas. Say these over and over to remember them.

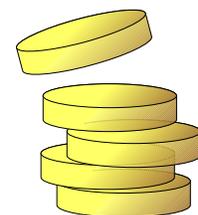
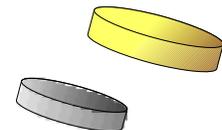
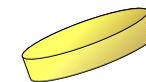
**Honesty works  
best for me.**



Honesty is very practical for me.  
It's easy to remember what I have  
told everyone if I just tell the truth.

## Pocket Change Chant

Ching	ching	ching	--
Can you	hear the	coins that	ring
clinking	in my	pock-	et?
Ching	ching	ching	--
Can you	hear coins	begging,	<b>MORE</b>
taunting,	<b>Life is</b>	<b>rough</b>	<b>you'll</b>
<b>never</b>	<b>have e-</b>	<b>nough!</b>	--
O the	spell that	it can	hold
over	us this	silver/	gold!
Who re-	members	what is	real ?
That can	help us	not to	steal...
Ching	ching	ching	--
Free us	from the	money	sting.
Taking,	hoarding,	lost in	fear,
not en-	joying	what's right	here.
Coins so	greedy	for at-	tention,
crying	wolf with	bad in-	tention.
Then our	need is	real but	no coins
left to	help us	heal.	--
Ching	ching	ching	-- What
'precious'	are we	clinging	to that
makes us	throw a-	way the	truth?
What is	it we're	grasping	for with
hands that	spend our	youth?	--
Ching	ching	ching	--
Money	can be	strange.	-- So
cling to	truth with	both your	hands. Let
go of	pocket	<b>change!</b>	--



How do we decide if truth or money is more important?

## Honesty Activities



### Try it now: Honesty in Black, White and Shades of Grey

Some actions are honest – like returning a lost wallet or cell phone -- and some are dishonest – like saying you didn't break something when you did. Some situations make it hard to tell what is honest. Is it alright to keep coins found on the ground at school? What if they were found on a city street? Or on the floor in your home? The conversation below explores these 'grey' areas.



#### Conversation:

#### Black White and Grey

Add your own ideas to the list below, then start a conversation with your family and friends by asking them to decide which actions are honest and which are not. Talk about it after everyone makes their choices. What do they think is honest in some of the 'greyer' situations? I hope this will help you feel good about your choices.

Black White Grey			
Please mark these actions as B W or G for Black (dishonest) White (honest) or Grey (not so sure) then rank the Greys from most honest to most dishonest...then let's talk.			
copying a CD that contains copyrighted music		sneaking onto a bus without a ticket	
telling your friend you like their new haircut when you don't		cheating on a test	
admitting you broke a neighbor's window while playing		returning money to a person who gave you back too much change	
not correcting someone thanking you for something another did		admitting you accidentally saw your friend's cards while playing a game	
finding a pencil on the school playground and keeping it		signing up for an email account and listing your age older than you are	
telling your parents you're one place when you're elsewhere		not telling your teacher you saw someone cheating on a test	
saying you have finished a job when you have not		playing somewhere you have been told not to play	



## Try it now: Honesty Games



### Game with words: Two truths and a lie

Tell two things about yourself that are true but maybe surprising and tell one thing you make up. The others guess which one is the lie.

Is it okay to lie when everyone agrees it is part of the rules? Do you feel okay about it?

### Game with cards:

### I Doubt It

This is a card game for three or more players where the object is to get rid of all of your cards. Deal out all of a regular deck of playing cards.

Whoever has the Ace of spades starts and if they have more than one ace they play all they have. If they have two, they say “two Aces” and place them face down. Play continues to the left. If the second person has a two they place it face down on the pile saying “one two.” If they don't have any twos they have to pretend that they do. Or if they have one and want to pretend they have two so they can dump an Ace, they say “two twos”. If no one challenges them they get away with it but, if someone says ‘I doubt it’, the cards are revealed.

If the player was lying, they have to pick up all the cards played so far. If they were not, the challenger has to pick them up. Continue up through the Kings. If it's not your turn when a number you are holding is played, you have to try to sneak those cards out of your hand later. When you get to Kings if no one has gone out, start again with Aces until someone runs out of cards.



How did it feel to lie, even when you had permission?  
Do we get away with lies in real life if no one catches us?



### Game with action:

### Mirror game

Find a partner. Pretend you are a mirror. Ask your friend to move in front of you as you copy their actions. Don't break the plane of the mirror (don't move through where the mirror would be). This is fun if you follow the rules of copying what they do. Switch so that they get to be the mirror.

After you've played a while think about this: How would you act differently if someone were doing everything you do in real life? Would you try to protect them from your poor choices? Would you lie? Next time you have a 'grey' honesty decision in real life, think how you would feel about your mirror image doing this action.

### Try it now: The Boy Who Cried Wolf

#### Story:

#### Crying Wolf

Do you know the story about The Boy Who Cried Wolf? You can read it at your library or online by clicking the title above. It explains how nobody believes a liar even when that person is telling the truth.



Photo by Tim Toombs

What do you learn from the story? Do you have questions about it?  
What is a selfish reason to be honest?

### Try it for real: Thanks for the Offer.



For a whole day can you only take things that are offered and not take anything that is not offered? That might mean not picking flowers from a neighbor's garden or not using a friend's toy they left outside or not eating meat for a day (the chicken didn't ASK you to eat it, did it?) See what comes up for you in the course of a day. At the end of the day, think about anything you may have borrowed in the past and were supposed to return. Plan to return anything you still have.

## Try it for real: Sticky Money, Fleeting Truth



Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi banker who helped many people said “Money is a sticky substance.” What do you think this means?

What is it that binds you or tempts you to being dishonest about money? In which particular situations are you most tempted to lie?

When you are asked if you've had cookies and you know that if you truthfully say yes you will get no ice cream, is it hard to tell the truth? If you go to the movies and you are supposed to pay full price since you had your birthday, are you tempted to say you're younger to save money on the ticket? If your friends ask if you've heard of a music star but you haven't, are you tempted to say yes so you will look cool? Without changing anything, just notice what happens this week that challenges you to tell the truth.



## Try it for real: Fairness and Honesty Experiments

Do you think you treat everyone the same? Are you 'more fair' with some than with others? Try treating everyone fairly for a day. Even those people you don't like. Treat them as fairly as you would your friends. Notice what happens.

On another day, try being completely honest all day. Don't exaggerate. Don't tell a lie. Not even a “little white” kind of lie. When you are with certain friends is it easier or harder? My father used to tell me that his father used to tell him, “Our best friends are those in whose company we are our best selves.”



## Instant Replay for Honesty:



What questions do you have about Honesty?

Do you think it is possible to be truthful all the time?

Is it important to be honest for your own good? Why?

Is it okay to lie if nobody finds out?

Do you think the photo of children playing hide-and-seek was a good choice to represent 'Honesty'?

Has anyone ever 'cried wolf' so that you don't believe them now?

Are you more likely to deal fairly with those you know well?

How does it feel to lie, even if you have permission?

What is more important than money?

All the world's a stage...

William Shakespeare

