

Lessons from the Sandbox

Ethics Mini

Our childhoods are full of life lessons, passed along by our parents in an effort to help us learn to interact well with others. In today's world, we are often encouraged to ignore those early lessons, as 'everyone fudges' and "looking out for #1" prevails.

Today, we will briefly reflect on some of those lessons from the Sandbox and discuss how they still apply today.

On a Power Point or Poster Board, list the following Sandbox Rules:

Share your toys

Play fair

Don't hit

Say you are sorry

Don't lie

Clean up your mess

Put things back

Instruct participants to find a partner, choose one or two of the listed 'rules' and discuss how that rule may be useful at work, in society, or in county government today. Allow about 3-5 minutes for discussion.

Ask participants to share which Sandbox Rule they selected and describe how it applies today. Select 3 or 4 people to share.

Go through the list of rules and give a real world example such as:

Share your toys—Share your resources; time, knowledge and skills.

Play fair—Be honest with those around you. If you mean 'no', don't say 'yes'. Keep your word.

Don't hit—"The beatings will continue until morale improves." Be a servant leader, rather than a beater.

Say you are sorry—A sincere apology demonstrates CLASS!

Don't lie—What you say/do (Act of Commission) vs what you don't say/do (Act of Omission)

Do your job and do it well.

Clean up your mess—We all make mistakes. Own yours.

Put things back—Follow laws, rules & procedures

Wrap up: Today, we looked back. Using this lesson, let's look forward to taking the high road in our role as public servants.