

TELLING THE TRUTH

ABOUT:

Winston LOVES balls, almost as much as he loves stuffed hedgehogs. The problem is that when he goes to visit my grandchildren, he destroys their balls, no matter what kind. Baseballs, tennis balls, volleyballs, basketballs. By the time he is finished they are either full of teeth puncture holes and flat or shredded. This inspired my story about Soren's baseball.

PURPOSE:

This story is to help them understand that no matter how hard they try to hide the truth, it will come to light. The longer they try to hide it the more miserable they become. It is best to clear their conscious.

SUGGESTIONS:

There are many reasons children tell lie. They may want the focus off of themselves or they want to build up their self-esteem. Of course, they want to stay out of trouble. Most often, they don't want to do that homework, so they say they did and the proverbial dog ate it, or they promise with crumbs at the corners of their mouth they didn't eat that last cookie. Even though this is part of growing up, it needs to be addressed.

Share stories like *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, look up other stories that teach honesty. One of my favorites is *The Boy and the Slingshot*, found on. Be ready with guiding questions and have a discussion.

IDEAS:

- **When I was a girl, we used to play a game called, 'Telephone.' The teacher would line us up and whisper a short sentence in the ear of the first child who would whisper it to the next child and so on. The last child would share the sentence whispered to her or him. Then the teacher would share what she actually said, which was drastically different after was passed down the line. It would be a fun game to play and a catalyst to a discussion of how a lie grows and morphs into something bigger.**
- **Read Pinocchio and discuss**
- **Read The Spider and the Fly poem. After discussion, make spiders out to pom poms, pipe cleaners, and googly eyes. You can also attach them to a thin dowel rod with a piece of thin elastic and watch them bounce up and down.**

Did you think of more ideas? Grrreat! Write Winston and let us know so we can include it on this site!