

Character and Contribution

“Children learn character by the values you teach, your words of praise, or the way you correct them. They learn character by observing your values and behavior in daily interactions outside your home and watching how adults treat each other in your home.” Kenneth Ginsburg

CHARACTER – It’s as much how you do it as it is what you do.

15 Ways to Promote Character

- 1. Notice children’s acts of kindness.**
- 2. Notice acts of kindness and decent behavior in others.**
- 3. Treat each other well.**
- 4. Treat strangers well.**
- 5. Reinforce the importance and value of including all children.**
- 6. Promote responsibility.**
- 7. Don’t spoil your children.**
- 8. Watch television and listen to music; be there when they receive unfiltered messages.**
- 9. Work towards a better world.**
- 10. Give to charity in the name of justice.**
- 11. Honor plurality.**
- 12. Avoid prejudice.**
- 13. Care about nature.**
- 14. Believe in something bigger.**
- 15. Be human.**



Character and Contribution

“When people have a strong character, they have the ability to return to a set of core values during times of crisis, which makes them more resilient in the most trying of times.”

Kenneth Ginsburg

GRIT – It’s not intelligence but diligence, perseverance and a commitment to hard work that predict success.

5 Suggestions to Improve Grit

- 1. Practicing delaying gratification can assist children in developing patience. “Good things come to those who wait.” Saving money for a bigger item and cooking from scratch are good ways to reinforce this idea.**
- 2. Encourage curiosity as a way to foster a love of learning. Children are naturally curious and open to new ideas and experiences. Provide opportunities to engage in the world in meaningful ways.**
- 3. Children with resolve appreciate constructive criticism. Praise the process rather than the outcome. Unearned praise and focusing only on the outcome may lead children to view constructive criticism as an attack.**
- 4. Children with tenacity know how to recover from failure. Learning to fail and recover in childhood, when the stakes are small, will allow them to enter adulthood to able to react to failure as an opportunity.**
- 5. A little bit of adversity is good. It teaches children how to recover from the ups and downs of life.**



Character and Contribution

Contribution

Benefits of Contribution

- *You develop a meaningful sense of purpose.*
- *You receive positive feedback from people other than family.*
- *You discovery of new interests and talents.*
- *You develop confidence through achieving actual results.*
- *You develop connections with neighbors, schools, the world.*
- *You develop responsibility, generosity, and caring which further develops your character.*

Contribution is not just charitable deeds. It can also be about being a part of and taking care of your family and your home.

- *Participating in family meetings and sharing ideas allows children to understand that their ideas matter and builds confidence.*
- *Chores allow children to contribute to the family and to tangibly see the impact of their efforts. Chores should be age appropriate and easily completed. Make sure children fully understand how to do a specific chore.*
- *Helping and contributing builds the understanding of the value of contribution to yourself and the successful functioning of your community. It also teaches that people who help do so because they want to and that it's ok to ask for help without shame—in fact it's the ultimate act resilience.*

