



Character Education at Home

Teacher Instructions

All teachers know that when parents are involved with their child's education, their child is more successful. It is to this end that the *Character Education at Home* program was designed. *Character Education at Home* helps connect families to the learning that is taking place at school.

This is Champ the Character Collie. He will be involved in the *Character Education at Home* packet every month. He will also hang in your classroom as a puzzle template that students will complete throughout the year as they work on the monthly family kit at home.

Family Kits

Each month you will send home one kit with each child in your class. Each kit will contain materials that families will use to help their youngster learn a particular character trait. You or your school may select which character trait to highlight each month, based on your school's character education program already in place. The following character traits are included in this *Character Education at Home* program:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Honesty
- Citizenship
- Perseverance
- Hope
- Courage
- Compassion
- Excellence



Display

Hang up one puzzle sheet per child, plus the completed puzzle sheet from your packet. Explain to your students how the program works, showing the first kit that you want to use. The children and parents are to go through the kit, complete the activities and write a message on the back of the puzzle piece that is included in the kit, explaining what the child learned about the trait of the month. The puzzle piece is returned to school and placed on the puzzle sheet.



Teacher Instructions (continued)

Inside the Family Kit

Every family kit contains the following five components:

1. Refrigerator Poster

The Refrigerator Poster is a colorful poster for parents to hang on the refrigerator, illustrating the character trait of the month.

2. Parent Letter

The Parent Letter is a monthly, instructional letter explaining how to use the kit and providing motivational messages.

3. Story

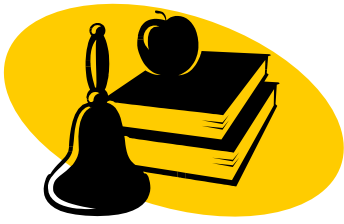
The Story is intended for the parent to read to the child. It also contains three parent-child discussion questions that tie the character trait of the month to the story.

4. Additional Activities

Three Additional Activities are offered as fun ways for families to encourage behavior regarding the character trait of the month.

5. Puzzle Piece

After the family completes the activities in the kit, they write a short comment on the back of the included Puzzle Piece, regarding what their child did to learn about and/or demonstrate understanding of the character trait that month. The child returns the Puzzle Piece to school for the teacher to attach to their Puzzle Sheet.



Teacher Instructions (continued)

Included in Your Teacher Kit

1. Initial Parent Introduction Sheet

- The Parent Introduction sheet explains the overall purpose of the program and is to be included in the first family kit that is sent home.
- You will need to make a copy for each child, plus extras for children who enter the program later in the year.

2. Student Puzzle Sheet

- The Student Puzzle Sheet is the page to hang up in the classroom that will hold the puzzle pieces that your students return on a monthly basis.
- You will need to make a copy for each child plus extras for children who enter the class later in the year.

3. Teacher Puzzle Sheet (Champ, the Character Collie Poster)

- The Teacher Puzzle Sheet shows the completed puzzle and is for you to hang up in your classroom for display and encouragement.

4. Optional Pre and Post Assessment

- This assessment is designed for use by every teacher, for distribution to all families who will be participating in “Character Education at Home” for the school year.

For More Information

Visit <http://www.GreatTraits.com> to learn more about the program, and to download all of the complete kits.

Also, if you want to print the puzzle sheets as separate files for color printing purposes, the files are located on the home page of the www.GreatTraits.com website, listed as:

Teacher Puzzle Sheet and Student Puzzle Sheet



Helping Parents Help Children

Introducing

Character Education at Home

*There are little eyes upon you and they're watching night and day.
There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say.
There are little hands all eager to do every thing you do.
And a little child who's dreaming of the day s/he'll be like you.*

— Author Unknown



What Is This?

This is the first in a series of packages that we will be sending home to help you teach a vital character trait to your child. The traits are: respect, honesty, compassion, citizenship, excellence, hope, courage, responsibility, and perseverance. If you will share just a little time with your child teaching these traits, it will yield tremendous benefits. Let us help you help your child.

Why Is It Important To Me?

There is nothing more important than the impact we have on our children. Teaching the character traits in this program will help your children grow into ethical adults.

How Much Time Will It Take?

The activities are designed to be easy, yet effective. The estimated time is 20-30 minutes per month. Additional activities and reference sources are also available on the website: <http://www.GreatTraits.com>

What Do I Have To Do?

1. Each month, display the **Character Trait Poster** on the refrigerator.
2. Read and discuss the **Story** with your child.
3. Choose at least one of the **Additional Activities** to emphasize the trait.
4. Write a message on the back of the **Puzzle Piece** about your child's experience with the character trait of the month and have your child cut it out to take back to school.

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Courage

Hope

Honesty

Citizenship

Excellence

Responsibility

Respect

Perseverance

Courage

Compassion

Honesty

Hope

Excellence

Citizenship



Responsibility



Pre and Post Assessment

Research has proven the importance of intentional character education as opposed to simple modeling. By completing the Family Kits in this program, we hope to substantiate the research.

Please rate your familiarity with the character education curriculum your child receives at school on a scale from 1 (limited) – 5 (knowledgeable).

1 2 3 4 5

Explain what you know about your school's character education curriculum.

Indicate approximately how much time you spent last year in intentional instruction of character traits to your child.

- I did not spend any time last year in intentional instruction of character traits. I rely 100% on modeling.
- Less than 30 minutes.
- 30 – 60 minutes.
- 1 – 5 hours.
- More than 5 hours.

If you did spend some time last year intentionally teaching your child character traits, please describe some ways you did this.

Did you notice any positive changes in behavior as a result of teaching your child character traits? If so, please briefly explain.
