



Parents Make a Difference

April Character Trait: **Perseverance**

This page includes ideas for building and reinforcing positive character in your child. Parents set the tone and lead by example. Parents *do* make a difference. Take advantage of your influence and spend time with your children talking about the character traits you value and look for in others.

~ *Perseverance* ~

Stay the task and do not give up. Demonstrate commitment, pride and positive attitude in completing tasks.



Ideas for Teaching *Perseverance* at Home

- In the spirit of baseball legend Babe Ruth's perseverance (hitting 714 home runs in spite of 1330 strike outs) use a baseball and write the initials of family members on it when they show perseverance. Call it your "Ball of Fame."
- Bounce a ball back and forth with your child to demonstrate the importance of "bouncing back" after he encounters a set back or failure in life. Encourage your child to learn from his mistakes and grow stronger from them. "It's not whether or not you get knocked down. It's whether you get back up again." ~Ralph Waldo Emerson
- Read a story about perseverance with your child, or share your own personal experience of a time you worked hard and overcame obstacles.

*Messages parents give their children to encourage **perseverance**:*

- "I know you can do it if you keep trying."
- "You've worked really hard on your spelling. Before you know it, you'll learn those words."
- "You're not going to give up until you get it, are you? I'm impressed with your hard work."
- "If you work on your science project every day this week, you're sure to be proud of the result."

~ from *Motivated Minds: Raising Children to Love Learning*, D. Stipek and K. Seal

*To succeed –
do the best you can,
all the time you can,
where you are,
and with what you have.
~Oscar Arias*

Character Comments

On Perseverance

“Energy and persistence conquer all things.” ~Benjamin Franklin

Try, Try and Try Again

You have failed many times, although you may not remember. You fell down the first time you tried to walk. Probably missed the ball the first time at bat and most likely toppled a few times while riding your first bike. Consider these famous folks who *persevered* despite the obstacles they faced:

- ★ Basketball great Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team.
- ★ Colonel Sanders was rejected more than 1,000 times when he tried to sell his chicken recipe. The fact that we can buy Kentucky Fried Chicken today is because of his perseverance.
- ★ When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876 no one was very impressed and he was unable to get financial backing. In fact, President Rutherford Hayes said, “That’s an amazing invention, but who would ever want to use one of them?”
- ★ Dr. Seuss was advised to stay away from any profession that had to do with art. He was also voted by his college peers as the “Least likely to succeed.”
- ★ Athlete Wilma Rudolf was told she would never walk due to a deformed leg caused by a childhood illness. She refused to accept this and persevered to be the first woman ever to win three Olympic gold medals in track.
- ★ Baseball superstar Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times - but he also hit 714 home runs! ~www.inspirationalstories.com

“You win some and you lose some, but you’ve got to suit up for them all.” ~Mike Ditka

“We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves.” ~Marie Curie