

**It takes diligence to train our children in good character and praise them each day. However, the end results are worth every sacrifice. This letter has tips to help you at home as you reinforce the character training that your child is learning in our karate classes.**

1. If you invest a few minutes a day and implement some of the ideas in this monthly letter at home you will help your child get SO MUCH MORE out of the time you spend at our school as well as establish patterns for successful behavior as adults.
2. If you do not have interest or time to read this entire newsletter. We encourage you to please take a few seconds and just scan through the different topics.
3. Try it for a month! Print out this newsletter, and then each day pick something to discuss and practice with your children.

**Here is an idea: We have five 'I wills', one scripture, and one definition. That is seven things total. What I try to do is take one of those seven things and discuss it, explain it, and catch my child doing it and applying it that day. Or, if they missed an opportunity to apply it I try to show them how they could have used it. So after one week, I will have reviewed all seven and I repeat it each week of the month.**

**I take very seriously the opportunity you give me by allowing me to partner with you to teach your child the things of God.** So, **I ask and encourage you to help me with your prayers.** Please join us in prayer every class your child attends for God to open his or her eyes, ears, and heart to understand and apply His truth that we will be sharing that day. **Also, please pray for us** that we would be good stewards of the time you have given us with your child and we would be faithful witnesses of our Lord and His word. **Every class, every time, please join with us in prayer. No Prayer – No Power. Much prayer – Much Power.**

### **The Power of a Partnership and Consistency**

**I hope for the chance** to expose your child to sound Biblical Character Training **over a long period of time.** And Lord willing, the longer the term of exposure to this curriculum the **BIGGER** the impact will be on your child and what he or she can achieve in life... **keeping in mind that the purpose of man is to worship God and to enjoy Him forever.**

**And your child will be exposed to this character building curriculum everyday you visit our school!**

**Enjoy the Parent preview below:**

### **CAUTIOUSNESS vs. RASHNESS Parent Preview**

#### **Definition for Class:**

**CAUTIOUSNESS is knowing the importance of right timing in accomplishing right actions.**

#### **Other definitions:**

- Cautiousness is knowing when and how to act. ( Use this one for Tiny Tigers )

- Cautiousness is planning for the success of a venture by following the ways of God rather than our natural inclinations.
- Waiting on the Lord for guidance forces us to reevaluate priorities and identify the “needful” things of life.
  - **“But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”” Luke 10:41-42**
- Preparation is not something suddenly accomplished, but a process steady maintained. – Oswald Chambers
- Allow time to test the credibility of your course and the stability of your steps.
  - **“Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way.” Proverbs 19:2**
- Cautious people are those who have conquered the urge to speak before they get the facts.
  - **“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger” James 1:19**
- Look before you leap.

### Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

**WHY TEACH CAUTIOUSNESS?** Children with perfectly good intentions can create terrible disasters by doing right things at the wrong time. A little thought goes a long way to prevent accidents and injuries caused by poor judgment.

1. I will think before I act.
2. I will follow safety rules.
3. I will ask permission.
4. I will talk at the right time.
5. I will look out for danger.

### Scripture Memory for class:

The prudent sees danger and hides himself,  
but the simple go on and suffer for it.  
**Proverbs 22:3 (ESV)**

- **Biblical Commentaries on CAUTIOUSNESS at bottom of this letter**

### Take Precautions

The best cautions are precautions which help prevent problems before they occur. The following safety measures require extra time, but usually require far less time than the cleanup or repair associated with accidents and injuries.

- Test new things before depending on them.
- Seek the counsel of experienced people.
- Communicate as clearly and completely as possible.
- Confirm that information is reliable.
- Establish emergency procedures and practice drills.
- Maintain emergency and medical supplies.
- Keep a spare tire.
- Make lists and check them twice.
- Use extra packing material around fragile items.
- Measure twice, cut once.

## **The Concept of CAUTIOUSNESS**

Accidents lurk around every corner and disaster is often only one false step away. Cautiousness recognizes potential dangers and takes action to avoid harm or injury. It understands the importance of timing to safety and to successfully complete one's goals.

Cautiousness matches appropriate actions with appropriate timing. By definition, however, there is no right time to do a wrong thing.

## **Ways to Praise CAUTIOUSNESS**

### **PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

- Not running with sharp objects in hand
- Instantly obeying safety instructions
- Not running on slippery surfaces
- Asking permission
- Picking up objects off the floor that others may trip over

## **Right Timing**

As with cautiousness, the timing of praise is everything. Immediate praise is always the most effective. The very act of recognition given at the right time goes a long way toward changing behavior and reinforcing character.

## Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

Along with teaching and expanding on the above definition, the ‘I Wills’, and scripture, **CAUTIOUSNESS** will be illustrated using:

- **The Character Card of the Month – CAUTIOUSNESS in nature with the PRAIRIE DOG.**  
Survival for the prairie dog depends on its timing. It carefully plans every move to avoid being caught by a hawk or a snake. Prairie dogs also build complex burrow systems that, at times, have spread for miles underground.
- **Hero’s of Character with SACAJAWEA** – Lewis and Clark’s expedition suffered greatly. Short of supplies and exhausted from weeks of travel, they came to a friendly village of Indians. One of the women named Sacajawea, came to their aid. She and her husband safely guided the explorers through dangerous rivers and treacherous mountains to their final destination – the Pacific Ocean.

## Character Card Tips

Character is useless unless it is a part of everyday life. Use the character cards and join with us in teaching your child the ‘I wills’ by saying, “Here are ways you can practice **CAUTIOUSNESS**.” Then read the “I wills” on the back of the card.

Then elaborate on each one from your own life sharing personal illustrations of when you did what was right or did something that was wrong. Be sure to emphasize that there were benefits to right choices and consequences to wrong choices.

## Personal Evaluation – How CAUTIOUS are you?

1. Do you seek God’s will for every situation?
2. Do you ask for counsel from wise and experienced people?
3. Do you learn from the mistakes of others?
4. Do you think about what you are going to say before you speak?
5. Do you consider the right timing for doing a good deed?
6. Do you realize how your actions will affect others?
7. Do you plan ahead and count the cost, especially for big endeavors?

## Rewards of CAUTIOUSNESS

- **FOUNDATION** – The family unit will continue to be rooted in strength and commitment as wise precautions are taken.
- **PEACE** – Visualizing undesirable consequences of activities that could possibly be hurtful gives assurance and peace in one’s wise decisions.
- **DECISIVENESS** – Families have a greater ability to be decisive when precautions are carefully considered and evaluated.

## CAUTIOUSNESS in the Home Includes:

- Deciding if the family has enough money for major expenditures – before making them.
- Foreseeing negative influences in a seemingly good opportunity and avoiding them.

- Seeking counsel from one another before finalizing decisions.
- Judging an activity by whether or not it would encourage good character.
- Asking the owner’s permission before taking or moving his or her belongings

### Natural Inclinations versus God’s Ways

1. Reject unchangeable physical or family features	Accept these as God’s means of developing inward character, and thanking Him for them.
1. React to parents and other authorities who do not give us what we want them to give us.	Recognize that God has established all human authorities to praise those who do good and punish those who do evil.
1. Cover our secret sins and failures so others will not think less of us.	Humble ourselves by confessing faults, asking forgiveness, and making restitution where appropriate. “Before honor is humility” Proverbs 15:33, but he that covers his sins will not prosper. Proverbs 28:13
1. Reject our offenders and eagerly hope that they will suffer.	Forgive those who offended us, and look for ways to benefit their lives.
1. Claim ownership of our possessions and use them for our own pleasure.	Dedicate our possessions to God, and use them to advance His kingdom.
1. Reprove those who fail to respect our personal rights.	Yield our rights to God, and thank Him for whatever happens beyond our control.
1. Enjoy the pleasures of sensuality and lust.	Dedicate our bodies to God as “living sacrifices,” and daily yield our members to Him.
1. Desire to be rich so we will have security, nice possessions, and the praise of others.	Purpose to be a “giver” rather than a “taker,” and learn how to serve others to make them successful.

### Biblical Commentaries on CAUTIOUSNESS

The prudent sees danger and hides himself,  
but the simple go on and suffer for it.

**Proverbs 22:3 (ESV)**

- Wise people see the approach of sin and remove themselves from it, while naive people walk right into it and suffer the consequences.<sup>1</sup>
- This is another contrast between the **prudent** and **the simple**. The one is aware of **danger** and wisely avoids it the other may see danger **but** puts forth no effort to avoid it, so he suffers **for it**.<sup>2</sup>
- Faith foresees the evil coming upon sinners, and looks to Jesus Christ as the sure refuge from the storm.<sup>3</sup>
- Wise people see danger coming and avoid it, but the simple ones walk right into it. Some people have to learn the hard way. All of us are ignorant in many things, but simpletons are ignorant of their ignorance and are unwilling to learn.<sup>4</sup>
- **Prepare for Temptation**  
Planning also involves deciding how to handle temptation before it comes. Proverbs 22:3 says, “The prudent sees the evil and hides himself....” Temptation is easier to face if we have decided in advance how to respond to it.<sup>5</sup>

*Character First! Education Series 3, Booklet 8, Oak Brook, IL;*  
*International Association of Character Cities. (2000). Achieving True Success.*  
*Institute of Basic Life Principles. (2001). The Power of True Success*

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<sup>1</sup>MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Pr 22:3). Nashville: Word Pub.

<sup>2</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (1:952). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>3</sup>Henry, M., & Scott, T. (1997). *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary* (Pr 22:3). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems.

<sup>4</sup>Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1995). *Be skillful*. An Old Testament study. (Pr 4:1). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

<sup>5</sup>MacArthur, J., F., Jr, Mack, W. A., & Master's College. (1997, c1994). *Introduction to biblical counseling : Basic guide to the principles and practice of counseling* (Electronic ed.) (290). Dallas, TX: Word Pub.