

Initiative vs. Unresponsiveness Parent Preview

Click [here](#) to refer a friend to this monthly newsletter on Character Tips.

The Power of a Partnership and Consistency

If you desire to help your child develop a high level of confidence, a polite and respectful attitude and good manners, and a desire to do what is right in the sight of God when faced with tough choices, **then we desire** to partner with you, and Lord willing, with the Grace of God, **make an eternal difference in your child's life.**

Our program is designed to encourage children to apply God's Word to their lives, develop and learn Christ-like character and sports fitness.

Definition for Class:

Initiative is recognizing and doing what needs to be done before I am asked.

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

Children with initiative do their homework Friday night instead of Monday morning. The five “I wills” encourage children to see how their actions affect other people.

1. I will do what is right before being told.
2. I will not put off until tomorrow the things I can do today.
3. I will contribute to the success of the whole team.
4. I will be part of the solution rather than the problem.
5. I will look for ways to help others.

Scripture Memory for class:

“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” James 4:17 (ESV)

Initiative in the Balance

A person must balance initiative with caution. Reckless initiative can do more damage than no action at all. Taking initiative also requires a person to weigh the risks and take prudent steps. To do nothing is to ignore initiative, but to act before considering the consequences is to ignore caution.

Hindrances to Initiative

1. Leaving unfinished projects and unnecessary clutter.
2. Assuming someone else will do it.
3. Allowing busyness to interfere with responsibility.
4. Losing others' trust by failing to act or acting without thinking.
5. Meddling in the affairs of others without respect to proper jurisdiction.
6. Laziness.
7. Waiting for a perfect time which never occurs.

Praising All the Sides of Initiative!

Praising children is sometimes a lot like getting a large boulder rolling down a hill. It takes a lot of energy to get it started. But never underestimate the huge dividends that good words yield in the lives of those around us.

Because initiative involves recognizing a need, finding a solution, and seeing it through completion, a child may exhibit initiative three ways. This means you can praise three times as much!

Praise children for recognizing that something or someone requires attention. While this is only part of initiative, it is worthy of praise.

Encourage children to suggest proper solutions to the needs they have recognized. Since not all solutions may provide the best answer, remind students to weigh the consequences before they act. Remember solutions that fail to recognize the whole problem, or create new problems, may be worse than taking no action at all.

Initiative doesn't end with recognizing a problem and identifying the best solution. Initiative also requires action. Without action, initiative is simply not complete.

Praise Character – Not Achievement!

Praising achievement rather than character remains a constant temptation. Praising achievement limits a child to his or her mental and physical capacities. Praising children for character, on the other hand, puts every child on an even playing field. Each child regardless of mental or physical ability has equal access to character. Praising the choices children make rather than their abilities enables every child to be successful.

Illustration Used in KK4C Class

Along with teaching and expanding on the above definition, the 'I wills', and scripture, initiative will be illustrated using:

- **The Character Card of the Month – Initiative in nature with the Whistling swan.** Whistling swans fall into a flight pattern which the air force has copied to increase the range of its tactical bombers. This

large and graceful bird takes the initiative to relieve the pressure on others during its 3,000 mile migration.

- **Initiative in History with George Washington Carver** – George Washington Carver not only solved dozens of problems for poor cotton farmers, he also brought the solutions to their doorstep. He recognized and did what needed to be done before being asked. He is a worthy example of initiative. At a time when those around him suffered in poverty, he loaded his helpful discoveries into a wagon and drove into the countryside looking for needs and ways to meet them.

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 **initiative**.” 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.

To purchase Character Cards click [here](#).

Personal Evaluation – How much INITIATIVE do YOU have?

1. Do you show initiative by rising early in the morning and seeking the Lord?
2. Do you take initiative to seek direction for your life in God’s Word?
3. Do you show initiative by memorizing and meditating on Scripture?
4. Do you show initiative by asking for forgiveness and being reconciled with your enemies?
5. Do you display initiative by building and using a prayer list?
6. Do you take initiative by setting aside times for fasting?
7. Do you take initiative in sharing the Gospel with others?
8. Do you exercise initiative in learning how to write down truths that God is teaching you?

INITIATIVE in the Home Includes:

- Accepting the challenge of being an example for other families and looking for ways to encourage them by sharing about lessons learned.
- Parents prepare achievement for each of their children by planning ahead for training opportunities that would help them reach their goals.
- Seeing or doing chores around the house that need to be completed.

Rewards of INITIATIVE

- **WEALTH** – To be faithful to a daily plan and to execute your work is like putting a penny in a piggy bank every day. Little by little the pennies multiply, and one day they can make one rich.
- **CHILDREN’S INHERITANCE** – Parents who take the initiative to plan and prepare for their children will have an inheritance to give them.

Manners

Making proper introductions is an important part of good manners. Looking someone in the eye, having a firm handshake, and standing squarely on both feet are things that make a good first impression. Learning how to make proper introductions goes a step further.

When introducing two people, say the name of the older person first. If they are the same age, say the lady's name first. If they are the same gender, say the name of the host first. Then you repeat the introductions.

It is also proper to mention something about each person.

When being introduced it is proper to look at the person being introduced not the person making the introduction.

Character First! Education Series 2, Booklet 2, Oak Brook, IL

Achieving True Success

The Power of True Success

¹Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (1:956). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Adam Schainblatt's Karate Kids For Christ - 10940 Raven Ridge Rd., Ste 118; Raleigh, NC 27614 - (919) 870-0525 www.Karate-Kids.org