

Linda Kay
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The purpose of this pathfinder is to give elementary students, teachers, and parents the opportunity to work through various situations that will aid them in building a strong character. The page is split into three sections. First, there are pages for students from Kindergarten through the fifth grade. Students will get the chance to complete lessons and get immediate feedback from various sites. Then, there are some sites for parents to access that will allow them the opportunity to become familiar with the vocabulary that the school systems are using. Next, there are many teacher sites to access lesson plans and ideas for school activities. Finally, there are research sites that give the national standards expected for character education.

Character education has swept the nation because most people are realizing that children need help in learning about what is truly important. Teachers want to spend time on their subject, but the value in teaching about being a good citizen through character education is seen as vital.

Student Resources

1. www.kidsinvolved.com/
“I Am...All About Me! uses 3 learning styles: visual, auditory and tactile. Through the use of these styles, the child is given the foundation upon which to build ‘The Me I am meant to be!’ With a clear understanding of exactly how the brain works to learn anything (and everything), the child gains an understanding of his/her potentials based in an awareness of the importance of a conscience, both personal and social. With an understanding of the importance of clear and directed communication, the child gains the tools to become an active participant in designing the person he/she will become. Once the benchmark for a strong responsible character is established, the child will have the criteria in place upon which to make safe, appropriate, respectful and loving choices as he/she navigates this game called life.”
2. www.storiestogrowby.com/
“Multicultural folktales organized in such categories as courage, justice and kindness. Each story ends with discussion questions, with kids' responses posted on the site.”
3. www.pbs.org/adventures/
“Activities based on the popular TV series from Public Broadcasting Service.”

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Parent Resources

1. http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/curr193.shtml
This site tells of how heroes are found in everyday situations. It also gives stories of how to teach character education.
2. www.familyvalues.nu/
“The Values Program is a tool for parents to use to focus on character education by teaching values to their children in every day situations. Contributions to the program came from real parents and educators and many of the stories are original personal experiences. It has been proven over time that simple stories involving an interactive discussion with children are very effective in communicating character values. It is our goal to assist parents, grandparents, and guardians in the character development of their young ones.” Designed for K-6.

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Teacher Resources

1. www.lifeskills4kids.com/
This site gives many teacher-developed lesson plans that explore the eight character traits desired by all teachers in their students.
2. www.earlyintervention.com
Teacher/Administrator resource page with online behavior plans, phone consultations, intervention screening program, and a library of resources.
3. www.charactered.net
On this page, there are 15 minute mini-lessons that are elementary age appropriate, rewarded with a certificate, stories shared by other users, printable lessons, classroom activities, resources, teacher and school notebooks that teachers and administrators to track usage.
4. www.integriguard.com/
This site is a teacher internet resource to assist in detecting plagiarism in papers.
5. http://www.newhorizons.org/restr_charread.html
This site is a character education reading list including readings for children and adults.
6. <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/ce/strat-splash.html>
This site gives various classroom activities for character development.
7. www.hurt-free-character.com/
“Created by a guidance counselor and based on teacher input, this simple character education program gives teachers ready-to-use tools to fit seamlessly into the daily classroom routine. Monthly lessons focus on 10 universal character traits:
*RESPECT * RESPONSIBILITY * CARING * FRIENDSHIP *TOLERANCE
*HONESTY *COURAGE *COOPERATION *SERVICE LEARNING and
*CITIZENSHIP”
7. <http://www.resource2000.org/100ideas.htm>
This site not includes lesson plans but also what the school can do as a whole to fully develop appropriate character traits. There are 100 ideas of things for schools to do.

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Current Research

1. <http://www.quest.edu/wnarticles2.htm>
This site explores the new research about the current research paradigm for character education.
2. http://www.newhorizons.org/restr_charman.html
Character Education Manifesto explains what needs to be done with character education.
3. <http://www.character.org/>
This site explains the national standards for character education.