



ALL-STAR KIDS

TUTORING

Advanced Training 106

Instilling All-Star Character:

How to teach character through books

What is character education?

"Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of a true education."

Martin Luther King Jr.

The term 'character education' refers to the deliberate effort to help students understand, care about, and act upon core ethical values and the instructional strategies used to accomplish this task.

- ✦ Character is not innate but developed by intentional effort.
- ✦ Core ethical values are not subjective preferences but rather they have objective worth and universal validity.
- ✦ Certain values are universal and transcend religious and cultural differences; they are rooted in our human nature and express our common humanity.

Character education, as it is used in the ASKT program, goes a step further in suggesting that the development of a student's character is essential to his/her academic success. Character education in ASKT encompasses both the teaching of ethical values and the promotion of a positive self-concept in every student.

What does character education have to do with academic achievement?

"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."

Theodore Roosevelt

The nature of our personal character determines the choices we make and the actions we take.

Character education seeks to engender the types of character traits that will help students make positive choices and take positive actions in the academic and personal lives.

How does this apply to students in ASKT?

Students in ASKT are primarily of low socio-economic status. The challenging circumstances and environments associated with living in poverty can produce damaging effects on a child's self-concept and personal character.

As a result, students of low socio-economic status experience greater difficulty in the social environment of school and generally achieve at lower levels than children of middle and upper class.

The Effects of Poverty on Self-Concept and Character

Students of low SES often...

lack a sense of self-efficacy

lack ability to self-regulate emotions and behaviors

hold low expectations of themselves

lack confidence to take academic risks

lack an understanding of basic social skills

How can I make an impact on my student's character when I can't change the circumstances that are shaping it?

"No significant learning takes place without a significant relationship."

Dr. James Comer

Professor of Child Psychiatry at Yale University

How can I teach positive character traits while tutoring?

"Books – the ultimate conversation pieces!"

* Read

Choose and read stories prior to tutoring session to ensure your understanding of the story's message.

Make sure the topics are age appropriate for your student and that they are likely to understand the concepts presented.

Before starting, assess your student's background knowledge on the concept you want to

discuss and/or the topic of the book.

* Engage

Empower your student to uncover the story's message by asking open-ended questions along the way and at the end.

Listen carefully to their responses and allow these responses to guide the discussion.

Show your student how you relate to and understand the message of the story rather than focusing on what the message should mean to him/her.

* Extend

Use a variety of written, oral and/or physical activities to further the understanding of the story's message.

Take a moment to conclude by asking your student what he/she remembers/ liked most about the story and/or the activity.