Mission Statement
It is the mission of Learning for Life to enable young people to become responsible individuals by teaching positive character traits, career development, leadership, and life skills so they can make ethical choices and achieve their full potential.

Special Note: There are 36 lesson plans in this book divided into the following categories: Respect, Responsibility, Honesty/Trust, Caring/Fairness, Perseverance, Self-Discipline, Courage, Citizenship, and Life Skills. Even though lessons are divided into categories, many overlap and focus on similar issues.
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The Learning for Life character education program has been developed to meet the critical needs of our nation’s schools and communities. It is designed to support schools and organizations in their efforts to prepare youth to successfully handle the complexities of contemporary society and to enhance their self-confidence, motivation, and self-esteem. Learning for Life will enhance social and life skills, assist in moral and character development, and help youth formulate positive personal values. This program will prepare youth to make ethical decisions that will help them achieve their full potential.

Program Methods
- Learning for Life features grade-appropriate, theme-oriented lesson plans to be used in the classroom to enhance and support the core curriculum.
- Learning for Life incorporates an action-learning process and uses teaching techniques such as role-playing, small-group discussions, reflective and moral dilemma exercises, and hands-on activities.
- Learning for Life suggests that you teach one lesson each week. Lessons are designed to last approximately 45 minutes to an hour. A lesson may offer more activities than time allows. It is at the discretion of the teacher to select which activities to conduct during the time allotted or to decide to continue the lesson at another time.

Family/Home Activity
Every lesson plan in this book has a family/home activity. This is a character-building lesson that the student takes home to do with a parent or guardian. The family/home activity reinforces the lesson that was done in the classroom and gives parents/guardians an opportunity to participate in the character development of their child.

Recognition Plan
Learning for Life offers a recognition plan for youth that will motivate positive behavior, foster a sense of belonging to the group, assist in building self-esteem, and reward a positive work ethic. See the Classroom Instructions for a breakdown of suggested lesson plan sets with appropriate recognitions.

Instructor Training
A Learning for Life representative will conduct a brief Learning for Life training course for all teachers, volunteers, and school administrators. For additional information on training, go to www.learningforlife.org.

Good Books Teach Character
On page 5 you will find a list of children’s books that reinforce many of the lessons in this book. The list includes books that focus on each of the nine character traits taught through the Learning for Life lessons: Respect, Responsibility, Honesty/Trust, Caring/Fairness, Perseverance, Self-Discipline, Courage, Citizenship, and Life Skills.

STEM Activities
This logo denotes an activity that incorporates STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) disciplines.

Art Activities
This logo denotes an activity that integrates art.

Anti-Bullying Activities
This logo denotes an activity that focuses on avoiding bullying behavior.
Display the Honor Wall chart in a prominent part of your classroom and write students’ names on the chart. The honor wall chart (SKU 32140) and stickers (SKU 32136) can be obtained through the local council or by visiting www.learningforlife.org.

As you complete a set of lessons, affix one sticker by each student’s name and put one on the student’s clothing. There are 15 different recognition stickers. You’ll notice that there is a difference in the number of assigned themes and recognition stickers; this is by design to allow the classroom teacher flexibility in selecting which recognition sticker to give. In some instances, three or four lessons may be used in a certain area before one sticker is given.

Following is the suggested breakdown of stickers and lesson plan sets.

**Recognition Sticker** | **Lesson Plan Set**
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Home | Something Special About Me Sticking to What’s Right
Getting and Giving Respect | Respecting Differences Trust Me—I Won’t Let You Down World Cultures Empathy
Transportation | Places and Maps
Community | Developing Good Listening Skills Community What Is Freedom?
Prepared | Fire Safety Being a Good Worker
Doing the Right Thing | Accepting Consequences Meeting Deadlines Never Give Up Overcoming Poor Decisions
Government | Setting Goals
Decisions | Decision Making Never Lose Sight Socially Responsible Behavior Conflict Resolution Anger/Conflict Management
Family Members | Ethnic Heritage Race, Religion, and Culture
Work | Choices Standing Up for Me Building My Courage
Proud of Myself | Self-Awareness Personal Habits for a Lifetime Building My Self-Confidence Coping With Stress
School | People Who Cheat When People Steal From Me
Health | Understanding People With Special Needs
Math | Money Management
Environment | Clean Air and Water

**SLOGAN:** Imagination and discovery are great; learning is fun!

**PLEDGE:** I promise to help my family, my friends, my school, and my community.

**SIGN:** Open hand above eyes as if searching.
Good Books Teach Character

We have compiled this list of books that support character building. They are broken out by the nine character traits categorized in this book.

Before recommending or reading any of these books aloud, we encourage you to carefully review your selection for words or portions of the book that might be considered objectionable to some persons.

**Respect**

*The 18th Emergency,* by B. Byars  
*Aldo Applesauce,* by J. Hurwitz  
*Between Friends,* by G. Garrigue  
*Bicycle Man,* by Allen Say  
*Cassie Binegar,* by P. MacLachlan  
*Crow Boy,* by Taro Yashima  
*Felicia the Critic,* by E. Conford  
*Frindle,* by Andrew Clements  
*Get Lost, Little Brother,* by C. Adler  
*The Glory Girl,* by B. Byars  
*Helen Keller,* by Margaret Davidson  
*Her Father’s Garden,* by James Vollbracht  
*I and Sproggy,* by C. Greene  
*The Jungle Book,* by Rudyard Kipling  
*Kids Around the World Celebrate!: The Best Feasts and Festivals From Many Lands,* by Lynda Jones  
*Living in Two Worlds,* by Maxine Berta Rosenberg  
*Magnus Powermouse,* by D. King-Smith  
*Marra’s World,* by E. Coatsworth  
*I and My Little Brain,* by J. Fitzgerald  
*Miranda’s Magic Garden,* by Linda Atrip  
*The Pinballs,* by B. Byars  
*Portrait of Ivan,* by P. Fox  
*Rachel Vellars, How Could You?* by L. Fisher  
*Ramona the Brave,* by B. Cleary  
*Renfroe’s Christmas,* by R. Burch  
*Somewhere in the World Right Now,* by Stacey Schuett  
*The Stone-Faced Boy,* by P. Fox  
*Stories From the Blue Road,* by E. Crofford  
*The Velveteen Rabbit,* by M. Bianco  
*Wonder,* by R.J. Palacio  
*Your Former Friend, Matthew,* by L. Gaeddert

**Responsibility**

*All Alone,* by C. Bishop  
*Angel In Charge,* by Judy Delton  
*Backyard Angel,* by Judy Delton  
*Bartolomeo and the Oobleck,* by Dr. Seuss  
*A Brother for the Orphelines,* by N. Carson  
*Corn Grows Ripe,* by D. Rhoads  
*Crow Boy,* by Taro Yashima  
*Elliot Fry’s Good-Bye,* by Larry Dane Brimner  
*The Family Under the Bridge,* by N. Carlson  
*The Get-Away Car,* by E. Clymer  
*Horse in the Attic,* by E. Clymer  
*Journey From Peppermint Street,* M. DeLong  
*Keep the Light Burning, Abbie,* by Peter and Connie Roop  
*The Light at Tern Rock,* by J. Sauer  
*Marvin Redpost: Alone in His Teacher’s House,* by L. Sachar  
*The Moffats,* by E. Estes  
*My Brother Stevie,* by E. Clymer  
*Nessa’s Fish,* by Nancy Luenn  
*On My Honor,* by Marion D. Bauer  
*One-Eyed Cat,* by P. Fox  
*Pearl’s Promise,* by F. Ash  
*Ricky Sticky Fingers,* by Julia Cook  
*Rufus M.,* by E. Estes  
*Shoemaker Martin,* by Leo Tolstoy  
*Shoesine Girl,* by C. Bulla  
*Stone Fox,* by J. Gardiner  
*The Street of the Flower Boxes,* by P. Mann  
*What a Wimp!* by C. Carrick

**Honesty/Trust**

*After the Goat Man,* by B. Byars  
*The Always Prayer Shawl,* by Sheldon Oberman  
*Anne of Green Gables,* by Lucy Maude Montgomery  
*Bernard the Brave,* by M. Sharp  
*The Best Kept Secret of the War,* by L. Todd  
*Call It Courage,* by A. Sperry  
*Call Me Ruth,* by M. Sachs  
*Charlotte’s Web,* by E.B. White  
*Courage, Dana,* by S. Pfeffer  
*The Courage of Sarah Noble,* by A. Dalgliesh  
*Elliot Fry’s Good-Bye,* by Larry Dane Brimner  
*The Gold Coin,* by Alma Flor Ada  
*The Great Brain Reforms,* by J. Fitzgerald