

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Teacher's Guide

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 38 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.

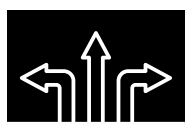
CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Classroom Instructions.....	5
Good Books Teach Character	7



RESPECT

.....	11
Ethnic Heritage.....	13
Manners Around the World	17
Respecting Differences	21
Respecting the Places Around Us.....	25



RESPONSIBILITY

.....	31
Being a Good Worker.....	33
Consequences	37
Making Decisions	43
Needs and Wants	49
Obedying Rules.....	55



HONESTY/TRUST

.....	61
Cheating.....	63
Honesty Is the Best Policy	67
Stealing.....	73
Tell the Truth.....	77



CARING/FAIRNESS

.....	83
Conservation.....	85
Empathy for Other People's Feelings.....	89
Family.....	95
Generosity	99
Sharing	103
Special Needs—Caring for All People	107



PERSEVERANCE

.....	113
I Am Special.....	115
I Made a Mistake	119
Learning From My Mistakes	123
Never Give Up	127



SELF-DISCIPLINE

.....	131
Building Self-Confidence.....	133
Controlling Anger	139
I Can Listen	145
Self-Control.....	147
Setting Goals	153



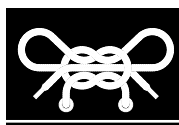
COURAGE

.....	159
Being Brave.....	161
Building Courage	167
Standing Up for Others	171



CITIZENSHIP

.....	175
Community.....	177
I'm a Good Citizen.....	183
My Country.....	189



LIFE SKILLS

.....	193
Communication	195
Fire Safety	199
Fitness for Life.....	205
Using Money.....	211

Acknowledgments	215
-----------------------	-----

INTRODUCTION

The Learning for Life 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 is 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

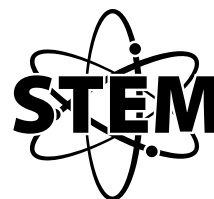
A Learning for Life representative will conduct a brief Learning for Life training course for all teachers, volunteers, and school administrators. For additional information on training, go to www.learningforlife.org.

Good Books Teach Character

On page 7, 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.



Additional Teaching Resources

www.BrightHubEducation.com
www.Education.com
www.NEA.org
www.Planet-Science.com
www.PreschoolEducation.com
www.PreschoolExpress.com
www.Scholastic.com
www.StoryLineOnline.net
www.TeacherVision.com
www.TeachersPayTeachers.com
www.WatchKnowLearn.org

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONS

Display the honor wall chart in a prominent part of the room and write students' names on the chart. The honor wall chart (SKU 616002) and stickers (SKU 616001) can be obtained through the local council or by visiting www.learningforlife.org.

As you complete a set of the lessons from the choice of 38 in your curriculum book, 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.



SLOGAN: Have fun, seek friends, play fair, and be honest!

PLEDGE: I promise to listen to my teacher, obey my parents, and be a friend to all.

SIGN: Hold hands as a group while saying the pledge.

Recognition Sticker	Lesson Plan Set
My Home	I Am Special I'm a Good Citizen My Country
My Friends	Respecting Differences Standing Up for Others
My Neighborhood	Respecting the Places Around Us
Listening and Talking	I Can Listen Communication
Helping	Being a Good Worker Sharing Generosity Community
Don't Quit	Never Give Up
Rules	Obedying Rules Setting Goals
What's Right	Controlling Anger
My Family	Ethnic Heritage Manners Around the World Family
My Choices	Making Decisions Tell the Truth Honesty Is the Best Policy Self-Control Being Brave Building Courage
Happy to Be Me	I Made a Mistake Learning From My Mistakes Building Self-Confidence Consequences
Respect	Cheating Stealing Empathy for Other People's Feelings Special Needs— Caring for All People
Growing Strong	Fitness for Life
Be Ready	Needs and Wants Using Money Fire Safety
Good Earth	Conservation

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

Apologies to Zs: Manners From A to Z, by Mary Elizabeth Salzmänn
Black Is Brown Is Tan, by Arnold Adoff and Emily Arnold McCully
Clifford the Big Red Dog: Clifford's Manners, by Norman Bridwell
Dora's Book of Manners, by Christine Ricci and Susan Hall
Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners, by Laurie Keller
Ellis Island (1892-1954): An American History Mini-Book, by Nancy I. Sanders and Jeff Sanders
Emily's Everyday Manners, by Peggy Post, Cindy Post Senning, and Steve Bjorkman
Emily's Magic Words: Please, Thank You, and More, by Cindy Post Senning and Peggy Post
Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message, by Chief Jake Swamp and Erwin Printup Jr.
Grateful Heart Under My Bed, by Janice Stitzel Bloom
It's a Spoon, Not a Shovel, by Caralyn Buehner
Jingle Dancer, by Cynthia Leitich Smith
Let's Talk About Good Manners, by Diane Shaughnessy
Manners Are Important for You and Me, by Todd Snow
Manners at School, by Carrie Finn
Manners Can Be Fun, by Munro Leaf
Manners on the Playground, by Carrie Finn
Mind Your Manners, B.B. Wolf, by Judy Sierra and J. Otto Seibold
Mind Your Manners: In School, by Arianna Candell and Rosa M. Curto
Monster Manners, by Joanna Cole and Jared Lee

Mother Goose Manners, by Harriet Ziefert
My Manners Matter: A First Look at Being Polite, by Pat Thomas
Not Afraid Under My Bed, by Janice Stitzel Bloom
Oops! Excuse Me Please!: And Other Mannerly Tales, by Bob McGrath
Perfect Pigs—An Introduction to Manners, by Marc Brown and Stephen Krensky
Please Is a Good Word to Say, by Barbara Jooose
Richard Scarry's Please and Thank You Book, by Richard Scarry
The Thingumajig Book of Manners, by Irene Keller
This Little Piggy's Book of Manners, by Kathryn Madeline Allen and Nancy Wolff
Time to Say "Please!", by Mo Willems
We're Different, We're the Same, by Bobbi Kates
Where Are Your Manners?, by Deborah Underwood
Whoever You Are, by Mem Fox
Whoopi's Big Book of Manners, by Whoopi Goldberg and Olo

Responsibility

The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble With Chores, by Jan Berenstain
Howard B. Wigglebottom and Manners Matters, by Howard Binkow
How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?, by Jane Yolen
How to be a Good Friend: A Guide to Making Friends and Keeping Them, by Laurie Krasney Brown and Marc Brown
Listen and Learn, by Cheri J. Meiners
Listening Time, by Elizabeth Verdick
Know and Follow Rules, by Cheri J. Meiners
Peanut's Emergency, by Cristina Salat
The Rules, by Marty Kelley
School Rules, by Larry Dane Brimner
Three Little Pigs, by Harriet Ziefert
What's the Recipe for Friends?, by Greg Williamson
Yoko & Friends School Days: Make New Friends, by Rosemary Wells