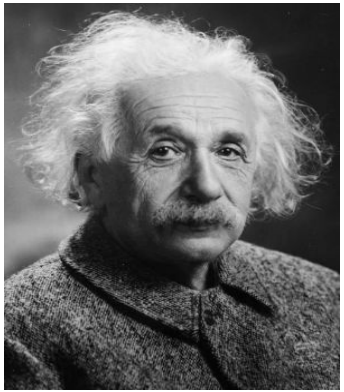
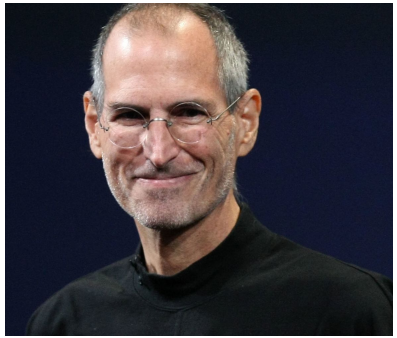
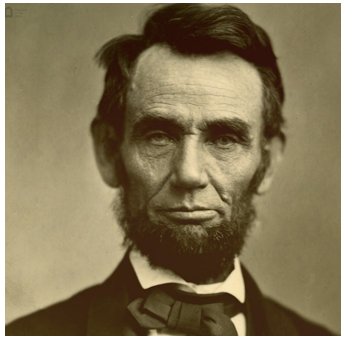
Integrating Character Education: The Preschool Years

Rebecca Brewer, PhD

Jasey Capron



8




What do these people have in common?

“Nothing is of more importance for the public weal, than to form and train up youth in wisdom and virtue.”

--Benjamin Franklin

CHARACTER EDUCATION REVIEW

What?

11 Principles of Effective Character Education

1. Promotes core values
2. Defines “character” to include thinking, feeling, and doing
3. Uses a comprehensive approach
4. Creates a caring community
5. Provides students with opportunities for moral action
6. Offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum
7. Fosters students’ self-motivation
8. Engages staff as a learning community
9. Fosters shared leadership
10. Engages families and community members as partners
11. Assesses the culture and climate of the school

--The Character Education Partnership (CEP)

CHARACTER EDUCATION REVIEW

Why?

- Children begin to form character at 18 months old
- Higher test scores
- Fewer discipline issues
- More engaged
- Self-discipline
- Self-respect

CHARACTER EDUCATION REVIEW

How?

- Character education needs to be a priority
- Good character must be modeled by teachers, admins
- Implicit and explicit teaching
- Lots of practice
- Lessons should provide empowerment

DISCUSSION

- What is your experience with character education?
- Is it effective?
- Why/why not?

VALUES IN CURRICULUM

- Choosing values
  - RAISE
- Example programs
  - Character Counts
  - 7 Habits
  - Learning for Life
  - Character First
  - Develop your own

VALUES IN CURRICULUM

All About Me

little leaders ★ pre-k **Lesson 2**

Theme: All About Me - School
Assessment: Teacher observation
RAISE Value: Respect

All About Me

Welcome & Centers — 30 minutes

Sensory Center: Have letters of foam or blocks in a bin of rice. Using spoons and cups, the students can find all of the letters of the alphabet. If time allows, have the students try to put the alphabet in order using the foam letters.
Dramatic Play Center: Have backpacks, notebooks, pencils, paper, and lunch boxes to play school.
Library Center:

Books to include this week:
Chrysanthemum
A, My Name is Alice
My Name is Isabella
A Porcupine Named Fluffy
Corduroy
All About Me (Nat'l Geographic)
I Like Me
My Preschool - Anne Rockwell

Resources

BOOKS
How Do Dinosaurs Say Happy Birthday; All By Myself

SONGS
Welcome Song; Days of the Week; If You're Happy and You Know It; Ten Little

Questions to ask:
- When is your birthday?
- What do you do to celebrate?
- Discuss how celebrating others is a way to show respect and kindness

Puppets/visuals to use: Have a book ready with the students' birthdays on each month.

Objective: Students will be able to identify their own birthday month.

Lunch — 30 minutes
Center Play — 15 minutes

Music and Movement — 30 minutes

Sing: A Ram Sam Sam.
Play: Musical instrument explore

Objective: Students will be able to experiment with a variety of musical instruments.

Goodbye

Rest Time — 15 minutes

Circle Time — 30 minutes

Sing A name song
Ask the students about the book they've read, the activities they did in the centers.
Review & Repeat the rules of the classroom.
Remind the students about respect and how to show respect in the classroom.

VALUES IN CURRICULUM

to provide the best educational experience to as many students as possible in a moral and wholesome environment

Powered By CHARTER ONE

Sample Lesson (demo)

VALUES IN CURRICULUM

Modify an activity

- Individuals
  - Choose a value
  - Add in the character education
- Small groups
  - Share
  - Choose one
  - Improve
- Whole group share

Accountability	Fairness	Patience
Caring	Forgiveness	Patriotism
Citizenship	Frugality	Perseverance
Cleanliness	Generosity	Punctuality
Cooperation	Honesty	Respect
Courage	Honor	Responsibility
Creativity	Integrity	Self-control
Dependability	Justice	Self-respect
Diligence	Kindness	Service
Emotional	Knowledge	Sharing
Intelligence	Loyalty	Tolerance
Empathy	Moderation	Virtue

Create your own activity

- Individuals
  - Create an activity
  - Choose a value
  - Integrate the value into the activity
- Small groups
  - Share
  - Choose one
  - Improve
- Whole group share

VALUES IN THE SCHOOL

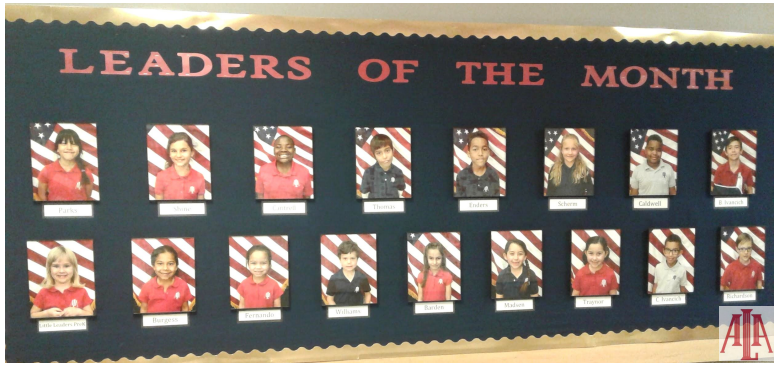
Why/How?

- The goal is to reform the classroom and school culture.[6]
- Form part of the mission statement of the class and school.[5]
- Involve and include all school stakeholders[5]
  - Parents, teachers, administrators, community members
- All adults should be role models[5]

VALUES IN THE SCHOOL

Integrating your values in the school community

- Assemblies/events
- Field trips
- Student spotlights
- Parent nights
- Newsletters
- Parent classes
- Teacher trainings
- Videos



Create your own activity

- Individuals
  - Create an activity
  - Choose a value
  - Integrate the value into the activity
- Small groups
  - Share
  - Choose one
  - Improve
- Whole group share

CONCLUSION

- What have you learned?
- How will you apply your learnings?
- What concerns do you have about implementation?
- Other questions, comments, concerns

REFERENCES

Berkowitz, M. W., & Bier, M. C. (2007). What works in character education. *Journal of Research in Character Education, 5*(1). Retrieved from

Berkowitz, M. W., Bier, M. C., & McCauley, B. (2016). Effective features and practices that support character development. In Invited paper for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine workshop on defining and measuring character and character education, July (Vol. 26).

Costley, K. C., & Harrington, K. (2012). Character Education: A Growing Need in American Schools [PDF file]. Retrieved from https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED532605.pdf

From Benjamin Franklin to Samuel Johnson, 23 August 1750. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-04-02-0009. [Original source: Labaree, L. W. (Ed.). (1961). *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin July 1, 1750-June 30, 1753.* (Vol. 4). (pp. 40–42). New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.]

Lee, G. L. (2013). Re-emphasizing character education in early childhood programs: Korean children's experiences. *Childhood Education, 89*(5), 315. Retrieved from https://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A345276663/AONE?u=maricopa_main&sid=AONE&xid=6cf0c618

Lickona, T., Schaps, E., Lewis, C. (2007). CEP's Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education. Character Education Partnership. Retrieved from https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED505086.pdf