

Parents - If you haven't already read the pages on "Developing Character in Your Children," you might want to go there first before reading these pages.



"Character training is about helping children recognize the cause and effect relationship between their character and their actions—and the consequences that result. Wisdom is the final product!"

Wisdom vs. Foolishness

"Making practical applications of truth in daily decisions."

Tips for Parents to Encourage Wisdom

Remember as you are working with your children on wisdom that we as parents are learners as well. Children naturally tend toward foolishness and need to be steered toward wisdom with great patience! Wisdom is grown slowly and takes years to develop.

You might want to discuss with your children the concept of wise counsel and foolish counsel (usually peers). Help them to identify those to whom they can go for wise counsel. Help them discern when they need to take responsibility for their decisions and when to recognize that another has authority over their decisions.

Here are some ideas to consider:

--Use the children's mistakes to help them gain wisdom. Focus on what they could do differently in future situations. Remember to do this with compassion, not wearying them with constantly pointing out their mistakes.

--Be sure to praise them for their attempts at good character. It shows them that you see they are trying and that they are headed in the right direction.

--Make a family "wisdom notebook." Divide it into four sections and use clippings and written stories to illustrate (1) those who showed good wisdom, (2) those who showed foolishness, (3) analogies you have noticed in nature, daily life or world situations, and (4) descriptions of times your children showed wisdom. Be sure to note the truth that emerges from each situation.

--Have your children research an animal, such as ants, sloths, or bees, to learn about their habits. Discuss with them what lessons and analogies they can learn to gain wisdom from these animals.

Have your children play this game to illustrate the benefits of learning from our mistakes. (Each letter guessed that is not a correct choice helps narrow the possibilities).

Game rules:

1. One person thinks of a word and writes a short underline for each letter in the word on a piece of paper.
2. Each person guesses a letter; if he is correct, the first person writes it in the correct space.
3. If it is not in the word, the player draws an oval.
4. For each incorrect response, an oval is added, following the directions for the owl craft on the "just for Kids" page. Add ovals for the body, head, wings, tufts on the head, legs, beak and eyes. Each player draws his own owl.
5. When an owl is completed, that player is out.
6. The player to complete the word wins the game.

