



Character Education

Character education is defined as an organized approach for parents, educators, and members of the community to instill strong character in our children, preparing them to become responsible adults.

As a parent, you already participate in character education. How you conduct discussions, discipline children for unacceptable behavior, reward acts of virtue, encourage children to explore new ideas, and encourage positive behavior are teaching important lessons about character and values. You are the key role model for character in your child's life, however, character education happens in both the community and perhaps, more formally, in your child's school.

Whose values are taught?

Most everyone agrees on the essential values that comprise good character. We recognize the importance of showing respect and caring for others, of being responsible and practicing good citizenship. We appreciate the importance of honesty and trustworthiness. We are sensitive to the need for justice and fairness.

This is not to deny that people have different values and that sometimes these differences are intense. Children learn values from many sources. They learn them from television, the Internet, popular music, their peers as well as their family and their school. The challenge is for schools and parents to become active partners in determining what values students absorb and how they are absorbed. Indeed, partnership is a vital part of character education.

Source: The EPIC National Center for Parenting and Character Education.