

Family Component

Family Wisdom Activities

- **Family Wisdom Newsletters**
Send home *Family Wisdom* newsletters in the **Citizenship Character Theme**.
- **World of Wisdom**
Send home a *World of Wisdom* page for *Social Studies* in *Family Wisdom* that highlights how leaders students have studied demonstrated the qualities of good citizenship.
- **Media Watch**
Send home a *Media Watch* page in *Family Wisdom* to help families discuss whether or not songs children enjoy encourage people to demonstrate the qualities of good citizenship.
- **Family Service**
Send home a *Family Service* page in *Family Wisdom* to encourage families to do a local service project together.

Family Support

- **Local Government**
In the school newsletter, encourage parents to help their children understand the general functions of local government. Suggest that parents take their children to visit City Hall.
- **Election Discussions**
During an election season, encourage parents to discuss appropriate campaign issues with their children. In addition, suggest that parents have their children accompany them to the polling place.
- **Family Projects**
Invite all families to attend a school assembly where some families share about the different service projects they did with their families.

Community Component

Guest Speakers

- **Public Official**
Have a public official who is involved with local government share with students about what he/she does to help the community.
- **Community Volunteers**
Have people who volunteer with local organizations share with students about the work they are involved with.
- **Travel Experience**
Have a family who traveled to another country recently show slides of their trip and explain some of the challenges people in the country face.

Service Projects

- **Family Service Day**
Invite families to a Family Service Day where community groups set up tables to share with families how they can get involved with volunteering in the community.
- **Tutoring Team**
Encourage teachers of older students to develop a team of tutors for younger students. Interview the tutors at assemblies or during school announcements.
- **Schoolwide Project**
Organize a school-wide service project where all students can get involved in helping make their school or community a better place.
- **Class Presentations**
Have classes give presentations describing the service projects they have participated in.

Family Component

WiseSkills[®] Elementary Family Lunch

Self-Discipline Skits



Preparation & Materials

1. No preparation or materials needed

- 1. Welcome Families** (1 minute)
Welcome families to the *WiseSkills* Family Lunch!

- 2. Eat** (10-15 minutes)
Have students each lunch with their families. For students whose parents do not attend, have them join a family for the entire time.

- 3. Creating & Performing Skits** (15-20 minutes)
Have each family group create a role-play where a person chooses not to show self-discipline. Then have each group perform their skit for the group. At the end of each skit, ask the audience in what ways a particular character could show self-discipline. Then have the group do the skit again with the character showing self-discipline. Explain how showing self-discipline will benefit the character in each skit.

- 4. Closing** (2 minutes)
Emphasize the benefit showing self-discipline in our lives, even though we may not feel like showing self-discipline.

Reproducible Invitation

A reproducible invitation to the *Family Lunch* is available in the **Family Component** section of the *Administrator's Handbook*.

Family Component Implementation Summary

The chart below lists each of the action steps for the *Preparation*, *Implementation*, and *Evaluation* phases of the **Family Component** and the specific *WiseSkills* resources that are needed for each step.

	Time Period	Action Step	<i>WiseSkills</i> Resources
1. Preparation	Beginning of the School Year	1. Have an orientation to <i>Family Wisdom</i>	<i>Training Flash Drive; Family Wisdom--Elementary; Family Wisdom--Middle School</i>
	Beginning of the School Year	2. Organize the school calendar	<i>Administrator's Handbook</i>
	Beginning of the School Year	3. Designate a <i>Family Wisdom Coordinator</i>	<i>Administrator's Handbook</i>
	Beginning of the School Year	4. <i>WiseSkills</i> Elementary Family Kick-Off!	<i>Family Wisdom Site License Packet</i>
	Beginning of the School Year	5. Invite elementary families to teach special interest classes (optional)	<i>Family Wisdom Site License Packet</i>
	Before Each Character Theme	6. <i>Family Wisdom Coordinator</i> prepares and distributes <i>Family Wisdom</i> materials for students to take home	<i>Family Wisdom--Elementary (K-5); Family Wisdom--Middle School (6-8)</i>
2. Implementation	During Each Character Theme	7. <i>Family Wisdom</i> materials are sent home	<i>Family Wisdom--Elementary (K-5); Family Wisdom--Middle School (6-8)</i>
	During Each Character Theme	8. <i>WiseSkills</i> Elementary Family Lunches	<i>Administrator's Handbook</i>
	During Each Character Theme	9. Parents teach special interest classes	<i>Family Wisdom Site License Packet</i>
	During Each Character Theme	10. Have additional family activities (optional)	<i>Family Wisdom Site License Packet</i>
3. Eval.	End of the School Year	11. Students, teachers, administrators, and parents complete evaluations and assessments	<i>Administrator's Handbook</i>
	End of the School Year	12. Modifications are made to improve implementation.	All <i>WiseSkills</i> Materials

WiseSkills® Family Component

WiseSkills Elementary Family Kick-Off!

For schools implementing the **Family Component**, the school year can begin with having a special launch event that orients elementary families to the **WiseSkills** program and the **Family Wisdom** materials they will be receiving. The **WiseSkills Family Kick-Off!** features positive activities that introduce families to the schoolwide focus on character and supports them as they teach their children good character at home. Most families will welcome the school's efforts as parents daily face the challenge of raising their children to be people of character.

The WiseSkills Elementary Family Kick-Off!

- **Orients Families to the *Family Wisdom* Materials That They Will Be Receiving During the Year**
- **Sets a Positive Tone and Focus for the School Year**
- **Emphasizes to Parents and Students the Schoolwide Vision of Developing Positive Character**
- **Affirms and Supports Parents as They Teach Character at Home**
- **Builds Relationships Between School Families**

Schools that are implementing other **WiseSkills** components can also include information about the other activities that students will be involved in.

Preparations for the WiseSkills Family Kick-Off!

To prepare for the kick-off, each teacher will need:

1. A copy of pages 178-179, which includes the *Kick-Off!* activities
1. An overhead projector to project pages from *Family Wisdom*
2. Transparencies of some of the pages in *Family Wisdom*
3. "Introducing *Family Wisdom*" pages for each family (pages 21-22 in *Family Wisdom* notebook)
4. Paper, pencils, and crayons/markers for each family
5. The "Be Wise" Song audio tape with lyrics on an overhead transparency or on a handout (available from *WiseSkills Resources*)
6. A *Table Thoughts* Table Tent from the first *Character Theme* for each participant
7. Snacks (families also can bring snacks)
8. Tables or desks for families

Reproducible Invitation to the WiseSkills Family Kick-Off!

On page 180 is an invitation that can be used to invite families to the **WiseSkills Family Kick-Off!**. Simply fill out the details of the event, add your own greeting or information, duplicate it, and then fold it to create a distinctive card.

WiseSkills Elementary Family Kick-Off!

1. Welcome Families (2 minutes)

Welcome families to the *Kick-Off!* Have families sit with each other at tables or groups of desks.

2. Explain the *WiseSkills* Focus (2 minutes)

Explain that the focus of *WiseSkills* is teaching *wisdom*. Wisdom is defined as: *Making good choices for myself and others.*

3. Display (5 minutes)

Display on an overhead projector a few pages from *Family Wisdom* newsletters and the reproducible activity pages. Briefly explain the different materials:

- Parent Letter
- Personal Thoughts
- Modeling Moments
- Home Activities
- Story Wisdom
- Media Watch
- Dinner Discussions
- Quote Corner
- *World of Wisdom*
- *Media Watch*
- *Family Service*
- *Character Challenge!*

4. Distribute *Family Wisdom* (2 minutes)

Distribute “Introducing *Family Wisdom*” pages to all families. (These pages can be found on pages 21-22 in *Family Wisdom*.)

5. *Family Wisdom* Character Themes & Skills (10 minutes)

Have families read to each other the list of *Family Wisdom* Character Themes and skills on the *Introduction for Elementary School Parents* page (page 21). Have each family choose one of the 8 Character Themes listed on the page in larger type and italics (*Positive Attitude, Respect, Responsibility, etc.*). Then have each family write down specific actions that people can take to show that particular character quality or other healthy choices that relate to the *Character Theme*. Have a few families share what they wrote with the whole group.

6. Understanding *Wisdom & Knowledge* (10-15 minutes)

Have families do activity # 1, # 3, or # 4 on the *Activities for Families* page (page 22). Have families do the activity together. When they are finished, have each family share what they discussed or did with another family that is sitting near them.