



Community Involvement

What is *WiseSkills*?

WiseSkills is a comprehensive character-building program that equips young people with the critical character qualities they need to be successful. *WiseSkills* includes three separate, yet interconnected, components that help schools, families, and communities cultivate good character in young people.

Because effective character education involves a community-wide effort, *WiseSkills* includes a variety of ways that schools can involve their local communities in character-building activities and experiences. The two primary community activities that are part of the *WiseSkills* program are:

1. Ongoing Career Speakers

The school regularly features different career speakers from local businesses and organizations to talk with students about their jobs and how they demonstrate good character at work. School volunteers use the *WiseSkills Community Connections Kit* to arrange career speakers for school assemblies.

2. Regular Service Projects

Classes are involved in meaningful community service projects with local agencies and organizations throughout the school year. School volunteers use the *WiseSkills Community Connections Kit* to organize service projects for classrooms.

The chart below shows the community involvement resources included in the *WiseSkills School Component*, *Family Component*, and *Community Component*.

Community Involvement Activities	School Component					Family Component		Comm. Comp.
	WiseWords (K-2)	WiseQuotes (3-5)	WiseLives (6-8)	Wisdom for Life (9-12)	Admin. Handbook (K-8)	Family Wisdom (K-5)	Family Wisdom (6-8)	
Ideas for Career Speakers					•			•
Questions for Career Speakers					•			•
Materials to Arrange Career Speakers								•
Student Career Journal	•	•	•					•
Service Project Ideas	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
Materials to Arrange Service Projects								•
Reflection Questions for Service Projects				•	•	•	•	
Community Involvement Ideas				•	•			•

Samples of the Community Involvement Resources in *WiseSkills*

WiseQuotes (Grades 3-5)

Citizenship

- 1. Local Service Project**
Have someone speak with students about a local issue and how students can get involved. As a class, get involved with the issue, including attending city council meetings.
- 2. School Project**
Discuss ideas for school projects to make your school a better place (painting, planting, etc.) Get parents involved and choose a school project to improve the school.
- 3. Addressing a Need**
Invite people involved with local nonprofit groups to talk about how they help the community. Have the class choose one of the groups to raise money or hold a food drive for.

Wisdom for Life (Grades 9-12)

Fairness

- 1. Fairness & The Law**
Have a lawyer speak with students about how the legal system attempts to uphold principles of fairness for all people.
- 2. Fairness & Employment**
Have local employers describe to students how they try to promote fairness in their hiring and in how they treat their employees.
- 3. Fairness & Civil Rights**
Have a speaker from a local civil rights organization speak with students about what they can do to promote fairness in their school and community.

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Admin. Handbook (Grades K-8)

Personal Goals (Questions for Career Speakers)

1. What personal goals have you set and reached as an adult? What steps did you take to reach these goals?
2. What goals or dreams do you have for your future? What are you doing now to try to reach those dreams?
3. What advice can you give to young people about setting and reaching their personal goals?
4. What kinds of goals do you set and try to reach at work?

Admin. Handbook (Grades K-8)

Conflict Resolution (Service Project Reflections)

1. What did this service project teach you about the importance of resolving conflicts peacefully?
2. During your project, did you have a conflict with someone that you resolved peacefully? What did you do? What happened?
3. During this project, did you learn anything about the negative results of people trying to resolve conflicts using force?
4. Because of this project, do you think you will deal with your conflicts differently?