



Service/Service-Learning

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.

Service to others is an essential part of building character. It teaches young people in a powerful way that they are not merely recipients at school, that they can make a positive impact on their world. As students experience the benefits of helping others, making their community a better place, or building relationships with special friends, they are impacted in positive ways. In fact, most adults who volunteer in their communities were involved in service when they were young.

WiseSkills provides a variety of ways for educators and families to help students apply principles of positive character by becoming actively involved in service activities. In each *WiseSkills* Character Theme, there are suggested ideas for simple service projects that reinforce the theme. Teachers can also look for practical ways to connect service activities to specific subject area content. This allows *service-learning* to be integrated into academic learning. The *Community Connections Kit* provides guidelines and ready-to-use materials to help school volunteers arrange service projects throughout the school year.

The chart below shows the service and service-learning resources included in the *WiseSkills* School Component, Family Component, and Community Component.

Service Project 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)	Community Connections Kit
Lessons About Service	•	•	•	•		•	•	
School Service Projects	•	•	•	•	•			•
Family Service Projects				•		•	•	
Community Service Projects	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Service Project Journal	•	•	•	•				
Reflection Activities	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Materials for Arranging Service Projects								•

Samples of the Service & Service-Learning Resources in *WiseSkills*

WiseQuotes (Grades 3-5)

Positive Attitude

- 1. Changing Attitude Lessons**
Have students create simple lessons--including skits and handouts--that teach younger students about changing bad attitudes.
- 2. Encouraging Through Performing**
Have students encourage others by performing for people who may have specific needs (e.g. hospital patients, elderly).
- 3. THANKS! Cards**
Have students make special cards thanking people in their lives they are thankful for.
- 4. Family Attitudes**
Have students design a creative sign to display at home with a list of ways they and their families can have a positive attitude.

Wisdom for Life (Grades 9-12)

Courage

- 1. Courage Posters (Art)**
There are a variety of areas where teenagers can show courage. Make posters encouraging students to be people of courage in areas such as saying no to drugs, resisting sexual temptation, choosing to resolve conflicts peacefully, and standing up for one's values. Put the posters up around the school.
- 2. Courage Play (English, Drama)**
Write a play where teenagers demonstrate courage and stand up for their values even when there is a significant cost. Put together a team and practice the play until you are ready to perform it. Perform the play in classes, assemblies, and at local middle schools.

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Family Wisdom (Grades 6-8)

Respect

1. As a family, interview senior citizens about how life has changed in your community. Create a booklet containing their oral histories and pictures. Donate the booklet to a local museum.
2. As a family, volunteer to tutor children at a school or community center in an underprivileged neighborhood.
3. As a family, create a community park or garden in a vacant area of your neighborhood.

Admin. Handbook (Grades K-8)

Citizenship (Reflections for Students)

1. By doing this project, what did you learn about being a good citizen?
2. In what ways did you demonstrate the qualities of a good citizen during this project?
3. How will (or how did) other people benefit from the work you did?
4. How did you personally benefit from this project?
5. Do you think being a good citizen is important for adults and children? Why?
6. Did this project change the way you feel about anything? Please explain.