The Foundation Project

MONTHLY ESSENTIAL SKILLS CARD

arkadelphia
regional economic development alliance and area chamber of commerce

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DAWSON Education Service Cooperative

THIS MONTH'S ESSENTIAL SKILL:

WORK ETHIC & INITIATIVE

★ Get Started and Keep Going! ★



KID FRIENDLY DESCRIPTION

I do my best, get started, and keep working until the job is done.

WHY THIS SKILL MATTERS

Work ethic and initiative help us become responsible, confident, and dependable. These skills help us take action and feel proud of our effort.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.....

IN K-3

- I can start a task when I am asked.
- I can keep trying when something is hard.
- I can do my best even when no one is watching.
- I can look for ways to be helpful.

IN 4TH-6TH GRADE

- I can get started without needing repeated reminders.
- I can stay focused and finish what I begin.
- I can put effort into a task even when it is challenging.
- I can notice what needs to be done and take action.

FIVE-MINUTE FAMILY ACTIVITY



Beat the Reminder!

Assign a quick task, like clearing the table or tidying toys.

The challenge is starting before someone asks.

Afterward, discuss what sparked the action, how finishing felt, and if anyone was extra helpful.

REAL-LIFE PRACTICE CHALLENGE



Take the Initiative!

Do one helpful task today without being asked, such as cleaning up or starting homework.

Spot the need, jump in, do your best, and finish the job.

Notice it, practice it.

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FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

WHY THIS SKILL MATTERS

Work ethic and initiative teach children responsibility and effort. Practicing these traits helps kids push through challenges to finish tasks, building habits for long-term success. Children who practice these skills learn to get started, keep trying, and complete tasks even when they are challenging.

PARENT COACHING PHRASE

"What can you get started on without being reminded?"

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

"What did you do today that showed you were giving your best effort?"

GROWTH INDICATORS

You may see your child growing in work ethic and initiative when they:

- Begin tasks with fewer reminders.
- Keep trying when something is difficult.
- Complete what they start.
- Take pride in doing a job well.
- Look for ways to help.
- Take responsibility for their work.
- Stay focused even when they would rather do something else.
- Notice something that needs to be done and take action.

CELEBRATION OR ENCOURAGEMENT PROMPT

"You saw what needed to be done and got started. That shows great initiative!"

SCHOOL CONNECTION

Children use work ethic and initiative when they begin assignments, stay focused, participate in class, ask questions, keep trying when work is difficult, and complete their responsibilities.