

21st Century Workplace Readiness Skills

Helping Families Build Employment Skills

Skills area: WORK ETHIC

Definition: Consistently works to the best of one's ability and is diligent, dependable, and accountable for one's actions

Ways to demonstrate this skill area:

- define *work ethic*
- recognize the importance of having a strong work ethic
- demonstrate diligence (e.g., working with persistence to accomplish a task)
- maintain dependability (e.g., being reliable)
- account for one's decisions and actions
- accept the consequences of decisions and actions

Ways to practice this skill area within the home:

Idea #1

1. Have a family discussion defining the term *work ethic* and the importance of having a strong work ethic.
2. Share with your child examples from your job of people who have demonstrated strong work ethics and those who have not. Make sure to stress the possible outcomes of following vs not following ethical guidelines.
3. After this discussion, have the student write or tell a story that demonstrates their understanding of the definition of work ethics and the importance of having a strong work ethic.

Idea #2

1. With the student, identify chores within the home that become the child's responsibilities.
2. Keep a chart of the child's performance focusing on:
 - a. Did my child persist to accomplish the task?
 - b. Was my child reliable in completing the task?
 - c. Was my child able to evaluate its own performance?
 - a. Did my child accept the positive or negative consequences resulted from its performance?

Idea #3

1. Watch some of the following videos from YouTube:
 - a. BrainPOP: Ethics
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPsoFhUDLuU>
 - b. Appropriate Workplace Behaviors—Grown Up!.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unHIRoVCv6w>
 - c. Ethical Dilemma: IT
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giLhBFBah5k>
2. After each video, discuss the ethical issue address in each video. Help the students identify the issues and the options of each employee.

Extending your Knowledge

1. Review the ethics activities in this Junior Achievement *Excellence through Ethics Session 4* pdf document.
<https://www.juniorachievement.org/documents/20009/1187238/Elementary4.pdf>
2. Read this article from The Center for Work Ethics Development: *Ten Ways to Teach your Children about Work Ethics* <https://workethic.org/work-ethic/>

Quote for the day:

“Who you are tomorrow begins with what you do today.”
— Tim Fargo