

Family Viewing Guide

Character and Life Skills: Diligence

Grade Level: 3-5

The Facts

Experts in the field talk about how diligent people do the following:

1. Have a clear goal
2. Use calendars, timers, and other time organizers
3. Create daily lists — and refer to them often to note completion
4. Use well established systems to frame their work and practice
5. Make good use of all resources
6. Find the necessary tools
7. Know that perfection is a goal that will never be reached but must be strived for
8. Do what they love

Start a Conversation with Your Kids

1. What does being diligent mean to you?
2. How does being diligent help you in school? How about at home?
3. What can we do to help you become more diligent?
4. When you've reached a goal or finished a task, how does that make you feel?

Advice from the Experts

Parents.com gives the following advice for teaching diligence:

1. **Be diligent in your own tasks and responsibilities.** Children learn from watching others so if you set a good example, they are likely to develop similar habits.
2. **Be diligent in your words.** If you say you will do it, do it.
3. **Set reachable goals and help them achieve them.** Explain to your kids that being diligent is doing the little steps well, to make the end product good. Diligence is especially important when trying to reach a goal. Diligence is doing a little each day to reach a goal, rather than waiting till the last minute to get something done.
4. **Be realistic.** Tell your children that being diligent is not always easy. Make sure they know that diligence requires effort, but the results are worth it, not just from what is achieved, but from the feeling that you know you did your best, no matter the outcome.

Notes
