

# Positive Role Models

The challenges that children face today are plentiful. Developing and nurturing self-respect are key to a child's success. Children can also benefit from the influences of positive role models. Use the following activities to help students identify positive role models and understand what they can learn from these people and their experiences.

## Researching Positive Role Models

Ask your youngsters what the phrase "positive role model" means to them. After students have shared their ideas, explain the following homework assignment. Instruct each student to interview one adult to learn about a role model that the adult had as a child and why this role model was chosen. Compile the students' interview information on a class chart and evaluate the information together as a class. Ask questions such as "How many role models were family members? Or people in the neighborhood or community? Or celebrities? What were the most frequent reasons for choosing a role model?" In conclusion, invite students to provide additional comments about what the phrase "positive role model" means to them.

## Traits Of Role Models

What traits should a positive role model have? Pose this question to the class and list your students' answers on chart paper. Invite discussion and debate about the traits listed; then have each student list what he considers to be the five most important traits. Suggest that students keep their lists for later use.

## Identifying Role Models

Whom does a person choose for a role model? Many students will respond that their role models are family members. Others may identify positive role models at school or in their neighborhoods or community. And of course there are plenty of famous folks that children hold in high regard.

In order for a role model to be influential, a youngster must recognize the role model's positive traits. To provide students with practice in this area, have each youngster complete a copy of page 21. This valuable exercise requires a student to evaluate the person he has chosen as a role model. Suggest that each student compare his completed activity to his list of the top five role-model traits (see "Traits Of Role Models"). Are they similar? Provide time for interested students to share their work.

## Follow Your Dreams

Positive role models reinforce the importance of courage and determination. This ongoing booklet project encourages students to follow their dreams. To make a booklet, personalize and cut out a copy of the cloud pattern on page 22; then glue it to the front of a folded 9" x 12" sheet of construction paper. If desired, use a silver glitter or paint pen to create a silver lining inside the cloud shape. Then staple a supply of blank booklet pages (page 22) inside this booklet cover. A student completes a booklet page for each of his role models. Any remaining booklet pages can be completed as future role models are discovered.

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**For Ordering Information:**

The Education Center, Inc.  
3515 West Market Street  
Greensboro, NC 27403  
336-854-0309  
800-714-7991  
Fax 336-547-1591

