

Core Essentials September 2008
Newsletter Insert: Knowledge

KNOWLEDGE: Discovering something new so you can be better at whatever you do.

How did you learn your ABCs? Who taught you how to tie your shoes? Why do you speak a certain language (or languages)? This month's featured value is knowledge. Knowledge is "Discovering something new so you can be better at whatever you do." So why is knowledge important?

Knowledge is not simply the accumulation of information, but is learning how to apply those facts. Imagine reading through a set of encyclopedias in a week. You would have accumulated a lot of information, but more than likely, you wouldn't retain most of it. Information overload can be more frustrating than a lack of knowledge.

Children can learn how to apply facts through the influence of others. Influencers might be great teachers, coaches, parents, TV, or friends. Children are great imitators. They learn by following the example they see. By modeling traits we want to see in children, we provide a stronger influence than we would through words alone.

Knowledge builds confidence and self-esteem. As children acquire knowledge, they establish an experience base on which they constantly build. Basic skills and instruction enable children to relate to new challenges by establishing some familiarity with what they know so that they can pursue with confidence what they don't know.

We hope that you will enjoy this year's Core Essentials program. A vital ingredient in the success of the program is the takehome sheets sent home with your child monthly. These cards are designed to be posted in a convenient location in your home (refrigerator, message board, kitchen table), and provide ways to emphasize the monthly featured value at home through family discussion and activities.