
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT REPORT

IMPROVE RETENTION AND ADD VALUE TO YOUR PROGRAM

Talent

Week 1

"Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself, but talent instantly recognizes genius."

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, British author, most notably Sherlock Holmes

Translation for Adults

A common trait of all talented people is that they never stop trying. Even if you have already developed good communications, time management, relationships or other skills, then you should never become complacent and stop trying to improve those skills, and learn others. If you never reach to achieve anything more challenging than that which you have already accomplished, then your talents will never increase. Once you recognize that you must strive for something greater, you will make the commitment and develop the ability to reach your full potential.

Translation for Kids

Just because you have good skills in martial arts, studying your homework or throwing a ball, doesn't excuse you from practicing those skills and learning new ones. Even though you already know how to do a front kick, you keep practicing to make the kicks even better. That's true for every one of your talents or skills. Even when you're good, you must tell yourself that you are not "good enough." You must keep improving, and never stop trying to develop better talents.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. Why do you continue to practice the good skills you already have?
2. Are your talents or skills ever "good enough?" What must you do to improve your talents?

Week 2

"We are always more anxious to be distinguished for a talent which we do not possess, than to be praised for the fifteen which we do possess."

Mark Twain, American author of *Huckleberry Finn*

Translation for Adults

Instead of dwelling negatively on the talents you don't possess, celebrate and put to good use the talents that are yours to share. It's perfectly reasonable to recognize that you can't run a four-minute mile or become a chess champion, but then forget your non-talents and concentrate on what you do well. Don't neglect the talents you do have, while complaining about those you don't. Don't hesitate to learn new skills, but don't expect to be good at everything you try. Be confident in the talents you do have and put those to better use than the ones you wish you had.

Translation for Kids

Every one of us have unique talents. None of us can be good at everything. It's just not possible. You might do a punch better than your friend, but he may kick better. You may help a friend with a school lesson you understand easily, while he knows all about repairing your bike. Sharing your talents with others is one of the greatest feelings in life. Once you understand that you can't do everything well, you can concentrate on your unique talents and skills and make them better. It's awesome to challenge yourself to learn new skills, but you can't expect to excel at everything. If you focus on using the talents you do have to their full potential, then you won't even notice the talents you're lacking.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. Name one of your unique talents.
2. Give an example of when you used your talent to help others.

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Week 3

"Great ability develops and reveals itself increasingly with every new assignment."
Baltasar Gracian, 17th Century Jesuit priest

Translation for Adults

Most humans tend to be born with some natural talents. They may be physical or mental, but they are still raw talents that must be developed to become highly useful and beneficial. Most professional athletes have natural, physical talents, but they require years of practice to train and discipline those talents, so those athletes can perform at the highest level. Your natural talents also require practice and training to improve your performance. Simply using your talents is not enough. It is also important to challenge yourself to develop your talents and gain new confidence, so your talents become valuable life assets.

Translation for Kids

Most of us have some natural talents, which means we can excel at certain tasks, without much effort. It's good to have those natural talents, but you must continue to develop those talents to be even better. Challenge yourself to learn new talents or skills too. You may discover talents you never thought you had. For example, you may be very good at front kicks, which is great, but you should also challenge yourself to try more difficult kicks, so that you can develop your martial arts skills even more, and be more confident in your talents.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. Name one of your natural talents. What did you do well the very first time, without any practice or help?
2. Why should you practice your good talents or skills?

Week 4

"Hide not your talents, they for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade?"
Benjamin Franklin, one of America's Founding Fathers, diplomat and inventor

Translation for Adults

Every one of your talents serves a purpose. Whether natural or learned talents, it's important to use your talents to your utmost ability. Use your talents to be a productive member of society, to care for family members and to make your community a happier and healthier place to live. Share your talents with others and, in many cases, you'll help to improve their lives. There are large and small opportunities everyday to put your talents to good use. Help a coworker improve his or her talents, so they can qualify for a raise. Use your cooking talents to make your mom's birthday just that much more special. To let your talents shine, you must work in the light, just like the sundial.

Translation for Kids

You have talents for a reason. Maybe you developed a talent for something you love to do. Maybe you were born with a certain talent. Use your talents not only to better yourself, but also to help others. You might be very good at explaining ideas, such as a side kick. Use that talent to help another student in your martial arts class prepare for a belt test. You might be a very good dancer; if dancing is something you love to do. Not only does it make you happy, but also it makes the people who watch you dance happy. Share your talents with the world and make it a better place to live!

Class Discussion for Kids

1. Which one of your talents makes you the happiest?
2. Have you shared one of your talents with others that made them happy too?