

Perseverance

PERSEVERANCE means not giving up. It means to continue to try even though something is difficult or hard.

LESSON 1

Read the definition of **PERSEVERANCE**. Share an experience with the students of a time when you had to persevere to reach a goal. (Perhaps it was when you were studying to be a teacher or pass an important exam.) Invite students to give examples of when they had to use perseverance to accomplish something. (Examples include: riding a bike, reading a long story, tying shoes, etc.) As time allows, ask them to describe how it felt to accomplish these goals.

School/Home Link Ask students to ask a family member to tell about a time they had to use perseverance to accomplish something. Tell them to ask how it felt when they accomplished the task.

LESSON 2

Review the meaning of **PERSEVERANCE**. Review Aesop's fable "*The Tortoise and the Hare*." (A tortoise and a hare entered a race. The hare, knowing he was faster than the tortoise, played around while the tortoise continued moving slowly and steadily toward the finish line and won the race.) Ask students which character showed perseverance during the race. Ask students to predict what might have happened if the tortoise had become discouraged and not persevered until the end of the race.

School/Home Link Ask students to tell a family member the fable of "*The Tortoise and the Hare*."

LESSON 3

Review the definition of **PERSEVERANCE**. Teach students the song: Stick with it to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb. "*When you're working, stick with it, stick with it, stick with it, when you're working stick with it; always try your best! Keep on going, do your best, do your best, do your best, keep on going, do your best; don't give up. When you're playing... When you're running... When you're learning...*" Allow the students to come up with additional verses.

Allow students to sing the song and act it out.

School/Home Link Ask students to sing the song about perseverance to a family member.

LESSON 4

Review the definition of **PERSEVERANCE**. Emphasize that a person who perseveres continues to work hard, even though it is difficult. Tell students to imagine they are helping a much younger child learn to tie his shoelaces. The younger person is getting discouraged and wants to give up. Ask the class how they could encourage the child so he or she will keep trying. (Examples include: "You'll get it! Keep trying." "You're getting better." "It takes time, keep practicing." "You can do it!") As time allows, write students' responses on the board. Tell students to remember the importance of perseverance when they feel like giving up.

School/Home Link Ask students to discuss the word "perseverance" with a family member and talk about how it helps to have someone encourage you when you are learning new skills.

LESSON 5

Review the definition of **PERSEVERANCE**. Emphasize that perseverance means to work hard to overcome a difficult situation. Review the story of "*The Little Engine Who Could*." Explain that the train kept moving up the mountainside and did not give up, even though it was very hard. Ask the students to imagine themselves doing something that is hard. Have students share their ideas on what it would take to do it.

School/Home Link Ask students to share the words "I can do it!" with a family member and explain how perseverance can help us to accomplish a goal.