

Perseverance

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

LESSON 1

Explain the meaning of **PERSEVERANCE** to students. Explain that not everything you do is going to be easy. Read: Sometimes when we are learning something new, we have to practice it over and over. By practicing we get better at the job. By sticking to the activity even though it is hard, it becomes easier for us to do it. Make a list on chart paper of things that may be difficult. Responses may include writing your name, cutting, coloring inside the lines, working quietly, etc. Have students share with the class something that they have found difficult. As time allows, discuss how perseverance can help them with difficult tasks.

***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. Keep on working! Don't give up. Do your best. It gets easier, stick with it. Stick with it, stick with it, keep on trying. Don't give up – It brings success!*** As time allows, 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.*