# NEVER GIVE UP, CHARLIE BROWN!

**Dear Parents & Caregivers,**
Is there a more iconic example of perseverance than good old Charlie Brown? We know he's going to miss that football, yet he tries anyway—and we can't help but admire him for it. He's persistent, thoughtful, and always optimistic—traits we hope to see in ourselves and in our children.

The award-winning curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired (YMI) have developed these activities to help children in grades 6 through 8 learn what it means to persevere by looking to the example of the Peanuts gang, and to support their language arts skills.

We hope you and your child are inspired by the Peanuts gang and these activities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

## What Your Child Will Learn

These activities will:

- Reinforce the importance of setting goals
- Remind children that it's OK to fail and ask for help
- Inspire children to be positive, try again, and persevere
- Support problem-solving and language arts skills

## Grade Level

Children in grades 6-8

## How to Use the Activities

There are three standards-based activities in this program. Download and print the activity sheets that you plan to use before getting started.

### Activity 1
### You Gotta Believe, Charlie Brown!

Ask your child to list character traits that they think make someone a good friend, e.g., loyalty, good sense of humor, kind, etc. Point out that we naturally gravitate toward people with a positive mindset who believe in themselves and in the positive qualities of others.

Next, ask: Why can a positive mindset help a person succeed in life? Cite Charlie Brown as an example: He keeps failing to kick that football, but continues to try anyway. How does that persistence help him face other trials in his life?

Have your child share their thoughts about how traits they identified contribute to a positive mindset, and ultimately, to the potential for success in life.

Have your child solve the crossword puzzle on the activity sheet. Then have them choose the five words they think are most important in meeting goals and write a paragraph on the back of the paper defending their choices.

***Answers:*** **Across** – 4. persistence, 7. nobility, 8. positive, 9. brave, 11. courteous, 13. commitment, 14. faith, 15. honor. **Down** – 1. courage, 2. humorous, 3. optimism, 5. confidence, 6. determination, 10. humility, 12. thoughtful

### Activity 2
### What's the Plan, Charlie Brown?

Ask your child to share one short-term goal and one long-term goal that they have. What do they need to achieve their goals in addition to a positive mindset? Answers might include gaining knowledge, developing a skill, acquiring resources, planning, and practicing. Even armed with all that, setbacks can happen. When they do, it's important to ask for help instead of just giving up.

Using the activity sheet, have your child consider Schroeder's and Lucy's goals. Schroeder wants to be a famous composer like his idol Beethoven, and Lucy wants to be president. If they both have confidence and persistence, what next steps could they follow? Possible answers for Schroeder could include taking lessons in composition and, for Lucy, volunteering for a student council or other leadership position.

Ask your child to consider a goal they may have achieved in the past and write a paragraph about what it took for them to reach that goal, including steps they took to overcome obstacles. Then have them list a current goal, steps that would help them meet that goal, and whom they might ask for advice when and if they are tempted to give up.

### Activity 3
### I Can Do It, Charlie Brown!

**Part 1:** Ask your child to name someone they admire and could interview, and why they admire them. Have them write the name of the person on the activity sheet, and then brainstorm and write down interview questions they might ask, such as how long did it take for the person to achieve success, what setbacks did they encounter, to whom did they go for help, and what was the biggest surprise they experienced. Interviews could be done by phone or email. When they conduct the interview, your child should record advice that person might give them to help them meet their own goals. Ask your child to share highlights of their interview and what they learned.

**Part 2:** Tell your child that Charlie Brown always talks to himself to build himself up before he tackles a task, such as flying his kite or kicking that football, despite obstacles he suspects might get in his way. Like Charlie Brown, they are going to write their own motivational message as a reminder to persevere when things get tough. Share some quotes to help give them ideas—a Google image search using "motivational quotes for students" will provide many examples. After your child writes their motivational message on the activity sheet, they can cut off the bottom of the page, and post the message somewhere they can refer to it regularly.

Questions? Contact YMI toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by email at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.

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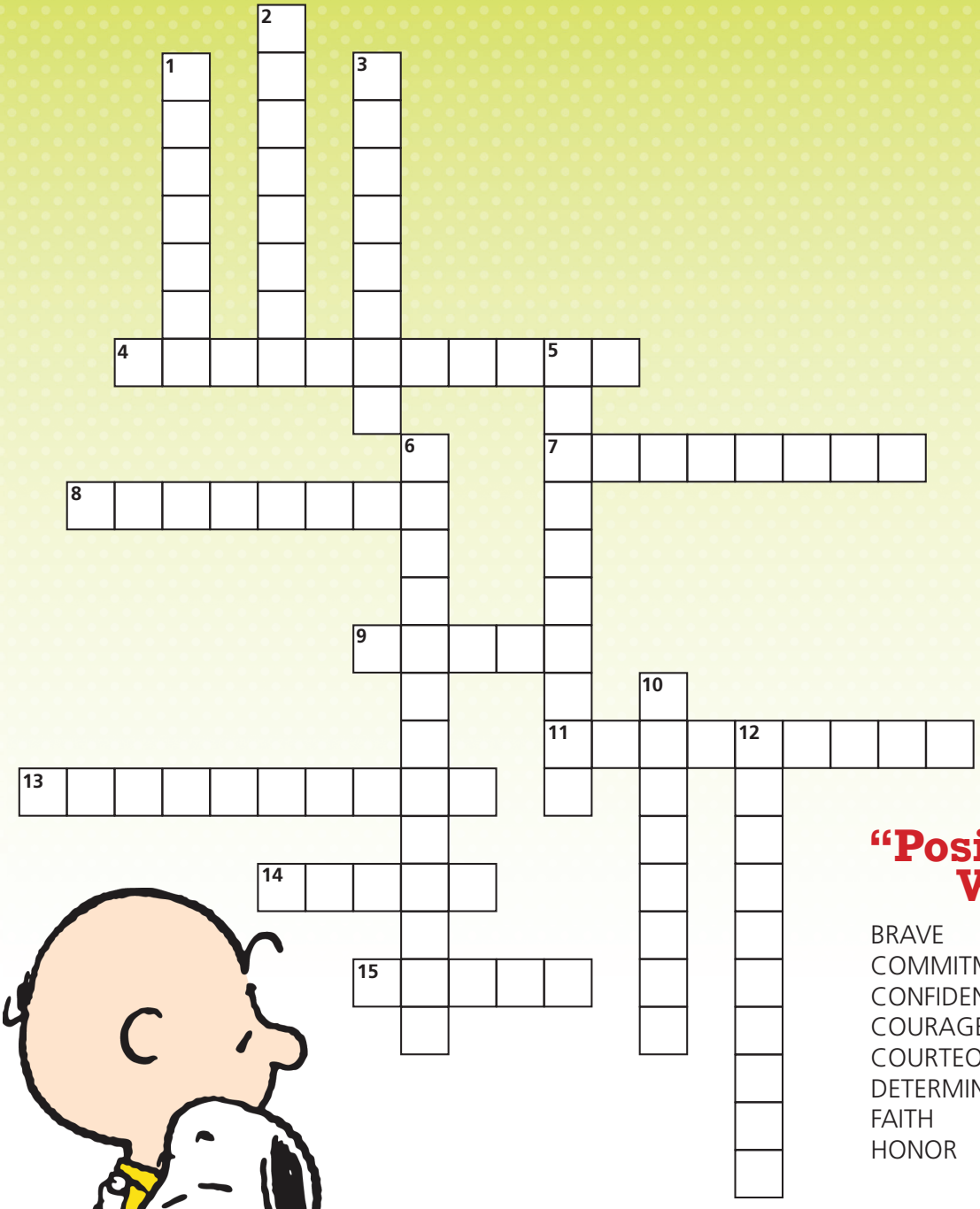
Activity 1

# YOU GOTTA BELIEVE, CHARLIE BROWN!

Charlie Brown has a positive mindset that helps him persevere in the face of obstacles. Think about the character traits that foster a positive mindset. Then use your own positive mindset to help Snoopy, the world-famous detective, and his sidekick Woodstock complete this "positive mindset" crossword puzzle with words that define these character traits. Use the word bank if you need help.




**Across**

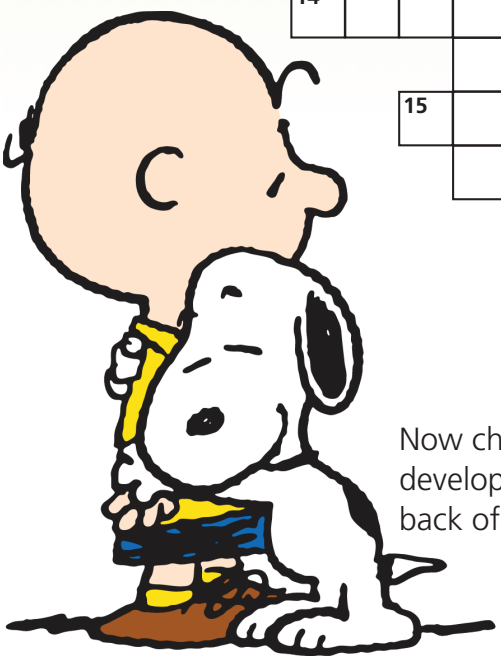
4. to continue to try
7. to have integrity
8. having a good attitude
9. ready to face difficulties
11. being polite and respectful
13. to be dedicated to something
14. to have confidence
15. earned from the respect of others

**Down**

1. ability to overcome fear
2. having a sense of fun
3. hopeful about a situation
5. firm trust
6. firmness of purpose
10. to be humble
12. showing consideration for others

## "Positive Mindset" Word Bank

BRAVE
COMMITMENT
CONFIDENCE
COURAGE
COURTEOUS
DETERMINATION
FAITH
HONOR
HUMILITY
HUMOROUS
NOBILITY
OPTIMISM
PERSISTENCE
POSITIVE
THOUGHTFUL



Now choose the five words you think are most important in developing a positive mindset and write a paragraph on the back of this sheet defending your choices.

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Activity 2

# WHAT'S THE PLAN, CHARLIE BROWN?

Schroeder and Lucy have big goals! Schroeder wants to be a great musician like his idol Beethoven. Lucy wants to be president of the United States. They both have the positive mindset to achieve their goals, but what steps can they take to see their dreams come true? Write down some suggestions for Schroeder and Lucy.

**Schroeder** _____

_____

_____

_____

**Lucy** _____

_____

_____

_____

Have you succeeded at meeting a goal in the past? Write about that goal, what you did to achieve it, and how you overcame any obstacles.

_____

_____

Now write one of your current goals here:

_____

What steps can you take to help meet that goal?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Now list three people you can ask for help and advice when you are tempted to give up. (You can write "parent" or "teacher" if you don't want to list specific names.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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Activity 3

# I CAN DO IT, CHARLIE BROWN!

**Part 1:** We all have people we admire—teachers, coaches, family members, or friends who inspire us by working to achieve their goals. Write the name of someone you admire and why you admire them:

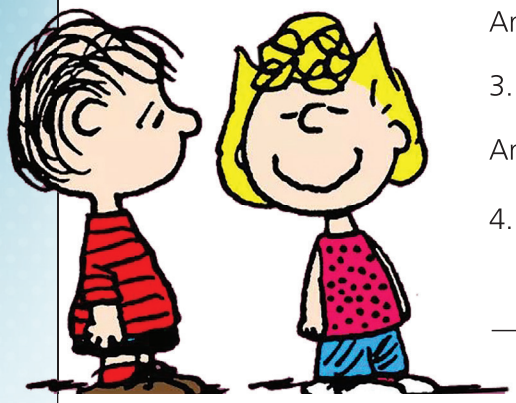
_____

Now plan to interview the person you admire. What questions can you ask that person about how their mindset, attitude, and actions helped them persevere in achieving their goals? Write your questions below, then interview the person and write their answers below each question. Use the back of this sheet if you need more space.

1. _____

Answer: _____

2. _____



Answer: _____

3. _____

Answer: _____

4. During your interview, did the person you admire give you any advice to help improve your mindset and perseverance to succeed? Write it here.

_____

_____

**Part 2:** Charlie Brown looks for the positives in others and in himself. In fact, he tells himself that he can do anything, and even though he often fails, he never gives up. Use this space to write yourself a motivational message, just like Charlie Brown.

_____

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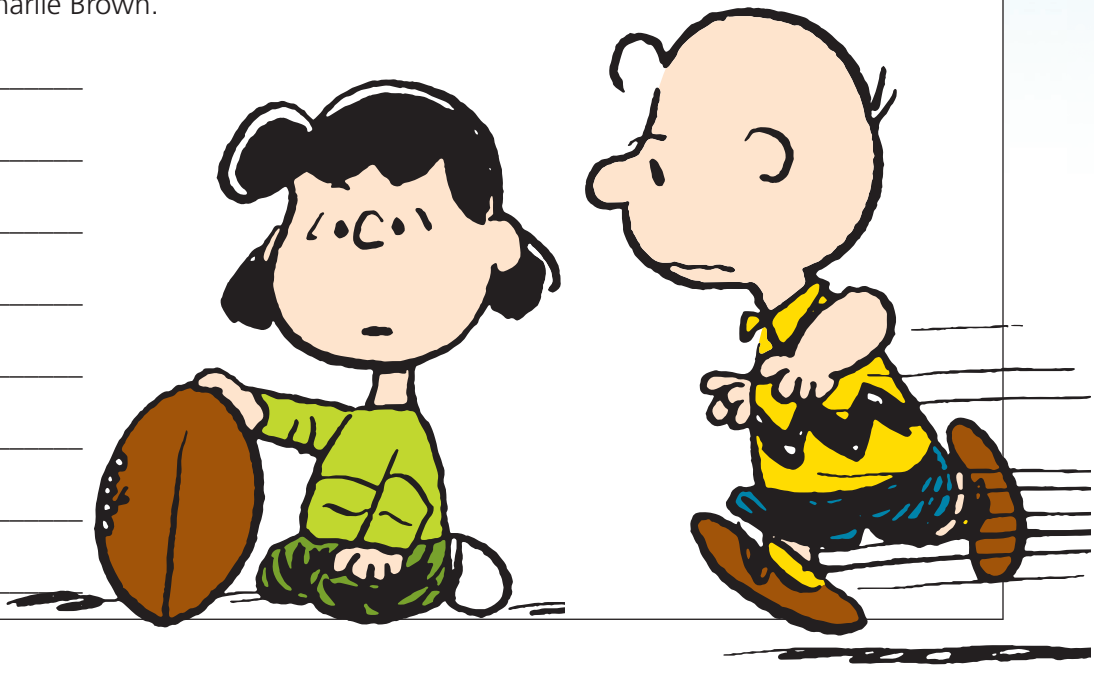

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