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 3 through 5 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 3-5

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. Help your child by reading each activity sheet to them if they need support.

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 tend to like people who believe in themselves and in the positive qualities of others. Why can a positive mindset help a person succeed in life? Take Charlie Brown: He keeps failing to kick that football, but continues to try anyway. How does that persistence help him face other trials in his life?

Ask your child how some of the traits they identified contribute to a positive mindset. Give them an example: Someone who is kind to others will also probably be kind to himself. This means that instead of feeling bad when he makes a mistake, he will remind himself that everyone fails sometimes, and then he will try again!

Have your child complete the word search on the activity sheet and review the meaning of the words listed. Then ask them to choose three words that describe them, and write a paragraph about how those traits help make them a better person—just like Charlie Brown!

Answers:

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? Have your child list their ideas. Possible answers for Schroeder could include taking lessons in composition and, for Lucy, volunteering for a student council or other leadership position.

Now ask your child to list one goal they have, steps that would help them achieve 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.

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

PEANUTS

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Activity 1

YOU GOTTA BELIEVE, CHARLIE BROWN!

Charlie Brown keeps failing to kick a football, but he continues to try anyway. He is persistent. He reminds himself that everyone fails sometimes, and he tries again. Use your own positive mindset to help Snoopy, the world-famous detective, and his sidekick Woodstock search this puzzle for the "positive mindset" words listed below.

E C L U F T H G U O H T S X K
G O E P R R K J O W O W I V X
A M J N E L X G N R O J L R R
R M P Y Y R Q P B N M T Y X F
U I O A Y V S N O B I L I T Y
O T S H B W I I Y X L C S W C
C M I M U M M T S B N Y S O S
D E T E R M I N A T I O N A U
C N I W X L O P F R E F D T O
N T V A I E Y R O A I N K L E
D S E M L O E N O D I P C U T
P W U B Y Q O N E U G T K E R
U H W Z G H F N X H S K H V U
B R A V E C C M S I M I T P O
U S Q U R E N E S R K C B J C

"Positive Mindset" Word Bank

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

Now, choose three of the words that describe qualities you have, and use the back of this sheet to write a paragraph about how those traits help make you a better person—just like Charlie Brown!

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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 _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Now that you've helped Schroeder and Lucy achieve their goals, what about yours? Write one of your goals here:

_____

Next, list some steps you can 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 real 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 and actions help them achieve their goals? How did they deal with any setbacks? 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. Did the person you interviewed give you advice to help you achieve your goals? If so, what was it?

_____

_____

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.

_____

_____

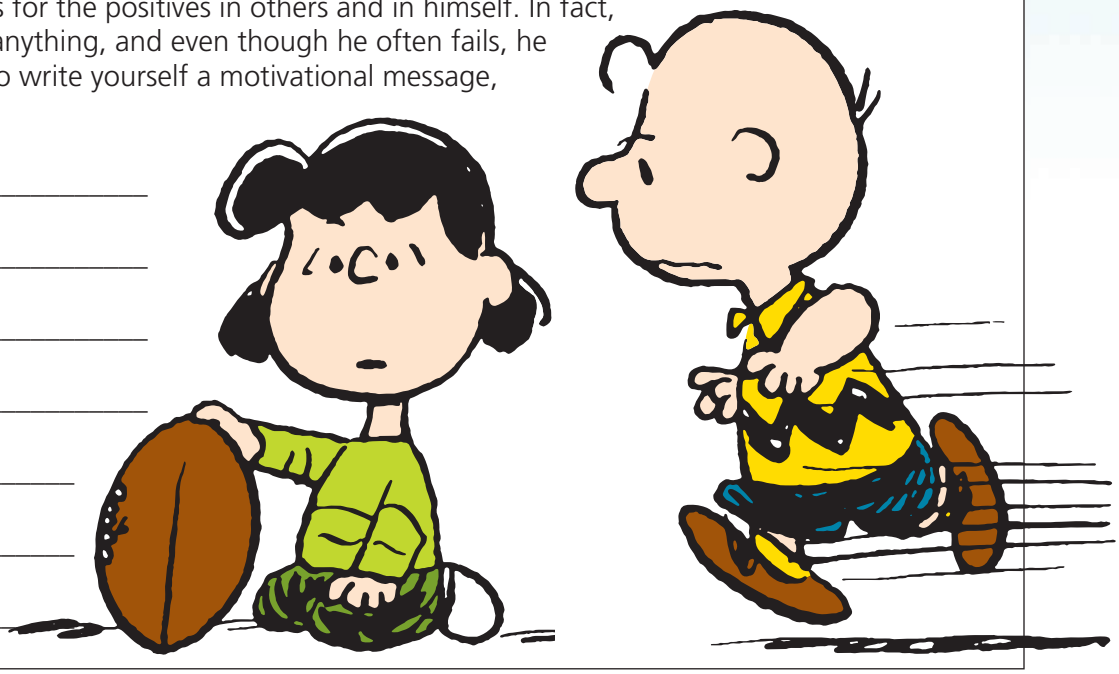
_____

_____

_____

_____

_____



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