

A Shared Commitment to Helping Children Grow

Professional Development Handout 6 of 6

Children learn across many settings and relationships. Educators, parents, families, and caring adults can strengthen learning when they share a commitment to helping children understand, reflect, make thoughtful choices, and grow.

Key Takeaways

- Children benefit when the adults around them reinforce positive learning through consistent language, expectations, and encouragement.
- Stories can create common ground for conversations between school and home.
- Meaningful learning includes academic growth as well as communication, reflection, empathy, responsibility, and decision-making.
- Adults do not need identical roles to share the same goal: helping children become thoughtful, capable, caring learners.
- A child's growth is strengthened when adults notice progress, ask questions, listen carefully, and create opportunities to practice what has been learned.

Putting It Into Practice

Share the language	Use simple, consistent words for the skill or character trait being developed.
Invite families	Share a story title or discussion question that families can revisit at home.
Celebrate growth	Notice effort, reflection, improved choices, and thoughtful communication - not only correct answers.
Keep connecting	Return to previous story lessons when similar situations arise in real life.

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Reflection & Discussion

1. What does a shared commitment to children's growth look like in your setting?

2. How can educators and families communicate about character and life skills in a supportive way?

3. What kinds of progress should adults notice beyond academic performance?

4. How can a story become a common reference point when helping a child work through a real-life situation?

My Next Step

Identify one practical way you can strengthen the connection between story-based learning and the adults who support the children you serve.

Continue Learning: Watch the complete Professional Development series and explore the free Gracie stories and printable activities at GraceLaJoy.com/worksheets.