

V O L . 1 N O . 2 J U L Y 2 0 1 3

INDONESIAN A.C.E. Newsletter



Southern Cross
EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISES

Character training is education. Education is character training.

3 Stages in a child's growth

Under 7 years

This is the age where a child needs to learn about God; to learn to obey and respect others; to learn godly values and self-control. The time to learn good habits and manners.

8 to 12 years

Children at this stage want to understand the legal structure of life, what they can and cannot do, why, reasons behind decisions, and rules of life.

13 years up

Children will now live what they have learnt. If they have learnt the wrong thing, then they need to be corrected and unlearn.

These different stages require different programs and strategies in training the children. If they have not learnt the right lesson at the respective phase, their growth is hampered and less effective.



What is Education?

“Education is the communication of life, from the living to the living” (Dr. Donald Howard). Education is the passing down from, one generation to another, of knowledge, values, language, thinking skills, life skills, character, faith and (Godly) wisdom.

To view education strictly as an academic matter is considering education in its narrowest sense. Unfortunately, many educators seem to walk on this path. Many schools are no longer preparing students for life; they merely prepare students for a life long career.

A.C.E. events in Indonesia . . .

A.C.E. Principal & Supervisor Training

12th to 16th Aug 2013

Venue: Raising Stars Institute, Kelapa Gading, Jakarta.

ICCE Coordinator & Moderator Training

23rd to 25th July 2013

Venue: Pelita Bangsa School, Pluit, North Jakarta



Work from the bottom up

When builders build houses, they start from the bottom. The foundation determines how tall the building can go. Likewise with children, how far they go is determined by their character - by who they are.

Character first

The character of a person determines how he lives. Character influences how he handles challenges, failures, and also how he handles success. An intelligent person tells us he may be able to think, but he may not be honest, reliable, consistent, diligent nor determined. He may not have integrity.

Obedience

When a student is obedient, he is able to do things more readily. He does not need to be persuaded, to be convinced, or to be motivated. He is more effective because obedience has shaped him. When a school has many obedient students, its programs are easier to implement.

Diligence

Build diligence on top of obedience. Diligent students will complete their work more responsibly. When a school has many diligent students, its programs are more likely to succeed.

Responsible

Obedience and diligence help a child to be responsible. Children will diligently complete their work. As children complete their work responsibly, they become effective as they take ownership of their learning. As they succeed, they will become happier with themselves and with one another. They will find their student life to be lots of fun – because of who they are.





Instill upon your student that he can help himself

Parents and schools want to teach their children many things; from languages to music, swimming to arts, oratory to video, anything and everything, so to speak. This aspiration is a good thing, after all, parents only want their children to do well and have higher achievement.

One thing that parents tend to miss is building self-control or discipline in their children. Discipline is developed. If there is one thing that there will always be a market for, it is the market for discipline. Unfortunately, one cannot sell discipline. It has to be developed.

When a child has acquired self-control, it will

make him more effective. He can command his body, mood and attention to do what is necessary, at the period required, in ways that may not be his choice.

In developing self-control or discipline, a child can help himself to do things that he otherwise could not do. The child is more effective than before, and more likely to succeed.

Self-control or discipline is the foundation which gives the child the motivation and strength to be responsible, whether he likes it or not. Today, self-control or discipline is less and less developed at schools because schools tend to be focused on academics.



Definition of Self-control

‘the ability to control oneself, in particular one's emotions and desires, especially in difficult situations’ (Oxford Dictionary)

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Three challenges when we talk about character

Character . . . difficult to grasp

Character is a common topic of discussion, yet, it is also a subject matter that seems difficult to grasp. More and more schools focus on subject knowledge and academic excellence, while character is less and less emphasized and developed.



Principles in Character

Character is about principles. In church, the pastor teaches Biblical principles to his congregation. They may listen but not understand, or they may understand it as knowledge but not embrace it in their hearts.

Applications & Corrections

Until a student applies these principles in their lives, the principles go only as far as knowledge, but when the student has the opportunity to apply these principles, and through it learn, then character is developed. Sometimes, students fail to apply the principles correctly, then correction is required.



Misnomer ‘School can teach Character’

Many innocently believe that character can be taught. Many schools only teach the principles of character. Until the lesson has been applied and corrections made, character training still remains a novelty for many.

Principles + Applications + Correction = Character Training



Can Character be Taught? How does A.C.E. instill Character?

Students cannot learn to write by listening to teachers. They learn to write by writing. It is in the practical application of learning to write that they finally can write.

Similarly, a student cannot be taught character by just hearing. They can only learn the principles. Putting it differently, schools cannot teach character. It is through practical circumstances that students learn character.

So the question is, how do schools help their students learn character? Are there programs designed that give students the opportunities to apply the character lessons they learn?

Students sitting in the classroom cannot learn character.

In the A.C.E. Learning Center, students learn character when:

1. He leaves his office, he is required to push his chair in; he is learning responsibility.
2. He sets goals every morning; he learns to take ownership of his learning.
3. He finishes his goal; he learns diligence and responsibility.

4. He scores his PACEs; he learns honesty.
5. He raises his flag and waits for the supervisor to attend to him; he learns patience.
6. He waits going to the scoring station because it is occupied; he learns orderliness.
7. He withholds from speaking to his friends during class time; he learns self-control.
8. He memorizes the verse in the PACEs; he learns determination.

In the A.C.E. program, this is what every student has to go through every day. This is the application aspect of the A.C.E. program.

Schools or homeschoolers using the A.C.E. program that follow the procedures as laid down in the manual will find that their students will develop good character qualities over time.

Embedded in the A.C.E. program are the procedures that develop the student's character.

Discipline, not Punishment



To train character in the students, a correct understanding of discipline is required. Discipline is a Biblical concept. Throughout the bible, it tells of God disciplining His children unhesitatingly, but He punished those nations that harmed them.

If schools can help parents understand the meaning of discipline, many parents will thank them for disciplining their children.



Definition of discipline

‘the practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behavior’ (Oxford Dictionary)

Definition of punishment

‘the infliction or imposition of a penalty as retribution for an offence’ (Oxford Dictionary)

Character Training includes Discipline

2 Sam 7:14 ‘I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men’.

Prov. 13:24, ‘Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him’.

Eph. 6:4, ‘Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord’.

Character begins with teaching the principles of character, continues by applying the principles, and is ended by correction, if necessary.

- A.C.E. teaches the 60 character traits which are found in our Learning Centre. These character traits are demonstrated in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each PACE explains and focuses on one character trait.
- A.C.E. procedures provide for daily application of some of these character traits.
- A.C.E. has listed wrong behaviors that will be disciplined or earn demerits.

Many schools claim that they teach character, and use some of the better known programs. These programs only teach the principles of discipline, and leave it to the schools to find applications within the school program. This is where many fail to complete the character training in their students.