

An Intentional Camp Activity Sheet to Develop Character Education

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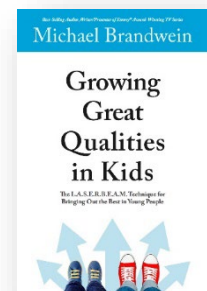
Many years ago, I coined the term “Intentional Camp.” This is a camp that is driven by this mission: To grow great Qualities in young people.

It isn’t enough to say we want to build “responsibility” or “respect” or “kindness.” We need to know what these and other Qualities look and sound like. In other words, how do people demonstrate that they have them. What behaviors do they have?

I call these specific behaviors “Say/Do’s.” A Say/Do is the specific conduct we want to see more of on the last day of a week of camp than at the beginning. I call this process of going from general Qualities to Say/Do’s “Laserization.” When we Laserize, we ask: **What do people with this desired Quality say or do?**

For example: If we want to use camp to develop the character Quality of “Responsibility,” we need to know what we want campers to say and do to demonstrate it. These would include doing what we say we’re going to do, putting things back where we got them, and saying we’re sorry.

Once we’ve defined these behaviors, we can use my L.A.S.E.R.B.E.A.M. technique to grow more. We do this by stating what the camper has done and what that is called (the Quality). “You said you would return this to me before the end of today, and you did. That’s Responsibility. Thank you.” Identifying and labeling Say/Do’s is how campers learn what these Qualities are.



Below are some examples of Say/Do’s to look for. Above them is a list of some desired Qualities we want to grow. Next to each Say/Do, please put the letter(s) of the Qualities that are demonstrated by the Say/Do. More than one Quality may apply, so you may use more than one letter for a Say/Do.

A. Confidence	F. Kindness / Caring	K. Respectfulness
B. Creativity	G. Patience	L. Responsibility
C. Flexibility	H. Persistence	M. Organization
D. Independence	I. Positivity / Joyfulness	N. Teamwork / Cooperation
E. Sportsmanship	J. Leadership	O. Honesty

	1. A young person (C) puts some things back where they belong.
	2. C tries for the fourth time to successfully kick a ball between two cones with their non-dominant foot.
	3. C1 is trying with difficulty to pour something without spilling. C2 comes over and holds the receiving container, so C1 can focus on the pouring.
	4. C gives a thumbs up to another person who answers a question correctly.
	5. C asks for your attention. You ask C to wait a few minutes until you finish helping someone else. C waits and does not interrupt you.
	6. C says, “I need help. I don’t know what I’m supposed to do.”

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	7. You're getting ready for an activity. You ask group members to move to specific spots in the room or in the field. C1 and C2 do this immediately.
	8. You gather a group to explain an activity. C makes room for persons behind them so they can see, too.
	9. At the end of an activity period, some young people start putting things away before they have to be told to do so.
	10. C shows the group a new or different way to do something in an activity.
	11. C doesn't want to do it. After you speak to C, they decide to give it a try.
	12. C1 is having some trouble learning a part of something. C2 leans over and shows C1 how to do this step.
	13. C asks other group members, "What do you think?"
	14. C says, "Nice shot!" to someone on the other team who scored a basket.
	15. C says to another person in the group, "You can do it!"
	16. C asks permission before doing something.
	17. C says they are going to do something by a certain time. C does it.
	18. C says, "My bad. It was my fault."
	19. C helps up a person on another team who has fallen.
	20. C says to the adult, "That was awesome. Can we do it again?"
	21. C person is picking on someone. C says "Knock it off. Leave them alone."
	22. C picks a person to play or be partners with that C has not picked before.
	23. C goes up to a group member who is sad and asks, "How are you doing?"
	24. C says, "This is the best!"
	25. C makes a list of what needs to be done.
	26. C tries something harder than C did before.
	27. When some objects fall and scatter, C jumps up to help collect them.
	28. C shows up on time with the necessary tools or materials for the activity.
	29. The leader asks for one person from each group to come to the front to get some equipment or materials to distribute. C does so right away.
	30. People are pressuring C to do something that C does not think is a right thing to do. C speaks up and says they are not comfortable with it, and why.

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From *Growing Great Qualities in Kids: The L.A.S.E.R.B.E.A.M. Technique for Bringing Out the Best in Young People*, Michael Brandwein

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