

Initiative

MAY 2025



SAY IT:

Initiative: Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

KNOW IT:

ASK A GROWN-UP:

- Tell me about a time in your life when you showed initiative.
- When has it been hard for you to have initiative?

ASK A KID:

- Can you think of some ways you can show initiative at home or at school?
- What is the toughest thing about showing initiative?

SEE IT:

Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it. We can look around and see chores that need to be done, people who need to be helped, or lessons that need to be learned. Quite often, we can show initiative by doing things ourselves, but other times we must show initiative by leading others. In the classic book *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis appoints the character, Mr. Beaver, to show initiative. Mr. Beaver can see the four siblings who are visiting Narnia are part of the prophecy to save them all from the reign of the White Witch. Throughout the story, Mr. Beaver shows initiative by leading the children to become great leaders and warriors. In this clip, notice how Mr. Beaver has seen what needs to be done and is insistent that they all follow through with doing it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqZmTfVH-G4>.

BE IT:

Set a goal to demonstrate initiative at least one time every day for a month. See if you can develop the habit of looking for something that needs to be done as soon as you wake up or get home from school. Ask your family if there are things you can start doing without being asked. Some ideas might be to take out the trash, put away your toys or clothes, complete your school work, brush your teeth, get ready for the bus, or pay attention to bed time. You may need to write a note or set an alarm to remind you. There are many things that need to be done each day, so try to show initiative by seeing these things and doing them.

PHASE

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Have you done the math?

How many weeks do you have from now until your child graduates from high school? You have about 36 less than when the school year started!

No matter their age, kids need a few things over time:

LOVE gives them a sense of worth. Knowing they are loved and seeing others love each other gives an example of what your kids will look for in future relationships.

STORIES about their past, their family, and their environment give them a bigger perspective.

WORK that is appropriate for them helps to give them purpose and significance.

FUN helps give them connections to others.

GROUPS (a team, a youth group, a cast, a class, etc.) give them a sense of belonging and fitting in.

WORDS that encourage, support, and correct give them direction.

So don't miss it. This school year may be over, but there is still time to incorporate love, stories, work, fun, tribes, and words in the time you have left.