



ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF PARENTS THROUGH VALUES – GUIDE FOR ADULT EDUCATORS

Project title: Active Engagement of Parents through Values

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Coordinator: Association Resources Center for Education and Family DOXAMUS (Romania)

Partners: European Institute for Modern Board Games (Spain), Scoala Primara Lorelay (Romania), SmartEdu4All (Italy)



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Chapter I. Setting the Scene

1.1. Project overview: Purpose, Vision, and Impact

What is PAVE?

The **PAVE Project** is an Erasmus+ initiative designed to help parents educate their children through values. It responds to a growing need: many parents wish to actively shape their children's values but often lack the necessary tools.

PAVE joins educators, psychologists, and institutions from Romania, Spain, and Italy to create a structured, easy-to-use guide that empowers parents to teach values at home while reinforcing the work done in schools.

Project goals

- I. **Provide a clear methodology** – Develop a guide with definitions of values and activities to work on that will enable parents to implement values-based education with their children.
- II. **Engage parents directly** – Training 300 parents through interactive workshops where they learn how to implement values education at home.
- III. **Strengthen collaboration** – Connecting families with schools and educators to ensure a consistent approach to children's social and emotional development.

How does PAVE work?

Step 1: Creating the guide

Experts analyze values promoted by schools and educational institutions in



different countries, selecting core values that are essential for children's personal and social growth.

Step 2: Developing the matrix of values

A tool is created to link values with real-life situations, helping parents apply them in daily family interactions.

Step 3: Training adult educators

Twelve educators are trained to guide parents through the methodology and workshops.

Step 4: Interactive parent workshops

Parents participate in hands-on sessions, where they learn practical activities to reinforce values at home. These sessions focus on communication, empathy, responsibility, and self-awareness.

Step 5: Family reflection & cascade effect

Parents apply what they've learned at home, engaging their partners, children, and extended family in the values process. This creates a ripple effect, ensuring that values education extends beyond workshops into real life.

How can parents use PAVE?

- ★ **Daily conversations:** Use the guide's examples to discuss values with your child in real situations (e.g., respect during a disagreement, honesty when making mistakes).
- ★ **Role-playing & games:** Engage in interactive storytelling, board games, and real-life role-play to reinforce key values.
- ★ **Family challenges:** Use fun family challenges (e.g., kindness missions, teamwork tasks) to strengthen positive behaviors.
- ★ **Reflection & adaptation:** Parents can personalize the approach based on their



family's needs, using the Matrix of Intra-Familial Values as a reference.

Why is PAVE important?

By actively shaping values, parents help children build strong character, make ethical decisions, and form healthy relationships. PAVE promotes a collaborative effort between families and schools, ensuring that children grow up in an environment that consistently supports their personal development.

Follow the project's progress and access resources at: <https://paveproject.eu/>



1.2. Who's Involved: Our Partners and Collaborators



Who we are

Doxamus Resources Center for Education and Family is a non-profit organization, founded in 2009, dedicated to fostering the harmonious physical, mental, and emotional development of children, adolescents, and adults. Through training, education, counseling, and brain fitness activities, we aim to support individuals in their personal and professional growth within the social context.

Our mission and areas of focus

To achieve our objectives, we operate in four key areas:

1. Youth development: Engaging young people in educational programs that foster critical thinking, creativity, and personal growth.
2. Parental counseling: Providing guidance and support to parents to enhance family relationships and improve children's educational experiences.
3. Teacher training: Equipping educators with innovative teaching methods and tools to improve the learning process.
4. Awareness campaigns: Addressing various socio-educational topics to engage and inform the broader public.

We also offer volunteering opportunities, encouraging young people to explore the field of education while contributing to meaningful social projects. Our programs and learning modules are based on research in neuroscience, ensuring an evidence-based approach to personal and cognitive development.



Professional development and brain training

Doxamus has been actively involved in training teachers, psychotherapists, educators, social workers, and psychologists on topics such as school-family relationships and effective teaching methodologies. In recent years, we have promoted brain training programs designed to enhance fundamental cognitive abilities, including memory, attention, thinking, and willpower. These programs support academic and professional achievement while also aiding in the recovery of individuals with ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, and neurodegenerative conditions.

European-funded projects and collaborations

1. "Unification of Nature and Culture through Outdoor Activities in the Border Area" (MIS-ETC 917)
 - Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova (2007-2013)
 - Promoted outdoor learning and cultural exchange.
2. "Increasing the Quality and Access to Education in the Cross-Border Area through Innovative Perspectives of Accelerated Learning" (2SOFT/1.1/17)
 - Joint Operational Programme Romania-Republic of Moldova (2014-2020)
 - Developed best practice guides and educational programs: "Developing Preschoolers' Fundamental Abilities", "Learn to Learn Fast and Easier", "Master English/Italian Fast and Fun"
3. "Shaping Life: Innovative Pathways for a Healthy Lifestyle in Adult Education" (Erasmus+ KA2)
 - Focused on developing life skills for adults from diverse backgrounds to foster healthier lifestyles.
4. "PAVE - Active Engagement of Parents through Values" (Erasmus+ KA2)
 - Launched in December 2024
 - Aims to help parents discover and implement key educational values for effective parenting.



Looking forward

At ACREF Doxamus, we are committed to continuous innovation and expansion of our educational programs. By integrating the latest research in neuroscience and pedagogy, we strive to create impactful learning experiences that empower individuals, strengthen families, and enhance communities.

We welcome collaboration with educators, parents, volunteers, and institutions that share our vision for a brighter, more inclusive future.

For more information or to get involved, please visit our website or contact us directly.

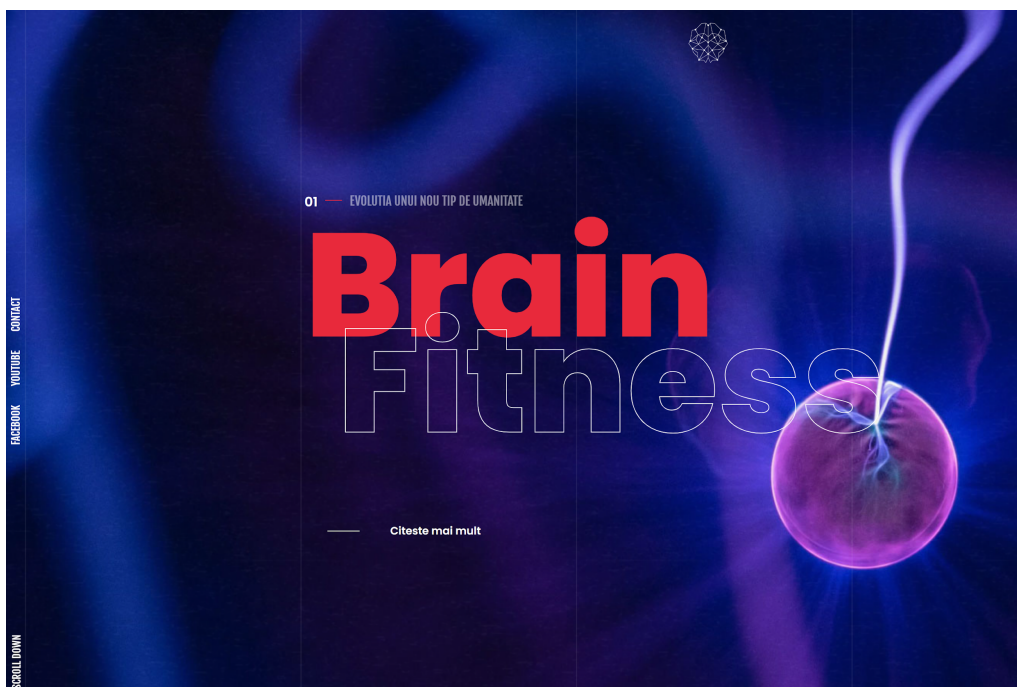
Website: www.brainfitness.ro

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DOXAMUS/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dr_psycho_mcd/

Linkedin: <https://ro.linkedin.com/in/mirela-dracinschi-20703824>

Doxamus Youtube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@doxamus>





Who we are

Lorelay Primary School is an accredited private institution located in Iași, Romania, founded in 2009. We educate around 45 pre-primary and 80 primary students, with the support of 18 passionate educators committed to innovation in education. Our school offers an inclusive and student-centered environment, guiding each child, parent, and teacher through their own journey of growth and transformation.

We believe that every learner's path is like *The Hero's Journey*—filled with challenges, personal victories, and meaningful change. At Lorelay, education is a collaborative adventure built on care, resilience, and lifelong curiosity.

Our mission

Our mission is to accompany, support, and guide children, educators, and parents through their developmental journeys—academically, emotionally, and socially. We aim to build a nurturing environment where well-being and belonging are central, learning is personalized and inclusive, each person matters and feels seen, valued, and supported.

We promote learning through active exploration, joy, motivation, and reflection. Our mission extends to developing proactive attitudes, community engagement, and a strong sense of personal responsibility among students from an early age.



Our educational approach & activities

Lorelay's curriculum is built around the European and national frameworks, emphasizing:

- The 8 Key Competences for Lifelong Learning
- Learning to live together
- Learning to act
- Learning to know
- Learning to be

We employ active teaching methods and integrate formal with non-formal education to make learning engaging and purposeful.

Highlighted practices:

- Board Game-Based Learning – fostering collaboration and soft skill development
- Outdoor Education – bringing experiential learning into nature
- Gamification – enhancing learning outcomes in Math, Grammar, Personal Development
- Inclusive Play – games and activities during breaks that promote social inclusion
- Cyber Awareness – using creative tools to prevent screen overuse and cyber addiction

We emphasize early and intensive foreign language learning:

- English taught through CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) starting at age 3
- Cambridge Exams organized for primary students (we are a certified Cambridge Evaluation Sub-Center)
- German introduced as a second language from grade 2 (age 8)

Our methods are inspired by the Multiple Intelligences Theory, integrating art, movement, ICT, and sensory learning for a well-rounded education.

Projects & European involvement



Since 2018, Lorelay has been an active participant in Erasmus+ programs, both as a partner and as a host for professional exchanges. These international collaborations support our efforts to refine teaching strategies and broaden our students' global perspectives.

Our objectives include:

- Encouraging European values, intercultural competencies, and civic engagement
- Hosting teachers for job shadowing, training, and teaching exchanges
- Using our Erasmus Accreditation to support student and teacher mobilities
- Creating sustainable partnerships with local schools and families

We have participated in:

- Music, Art and Drama in Europe together! (2018-1-DE03-KA229-047217)
- Varied Teaching in Outdoor Environments (2020-1-SE01-KA229-077896_3)
- Addict to You – Raising awareness about cyber addiction (2022-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000087470)
- Inclusive Break – Promoting equal opportunities (2021-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000032638)
- School Education Against Climate Change (2021-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000023837)
- Meeple School – Board games for soft skills (2021-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000034472)
- Active Engagement of Parents through Values (2024-1-RO01-KA220-ADU-000244513)

We also organize educational camps in Romania and abroad, giving students a broader cultural and experiential outlook.

Our vision

Lorelay School strives to be a truly European learning community, one that cultivates curiosity, cooperation, compassion, and competence. Through international exchange, teacher development, and inclusive practices, we are shaping a generation of



confident, active, and globally-minded learners. We welcome collaboration with like-minded European schools and educators who share our commitment to innovative, inclusive, and future-ready education.

For more information or to get involved, please visit our website or contact us directly.

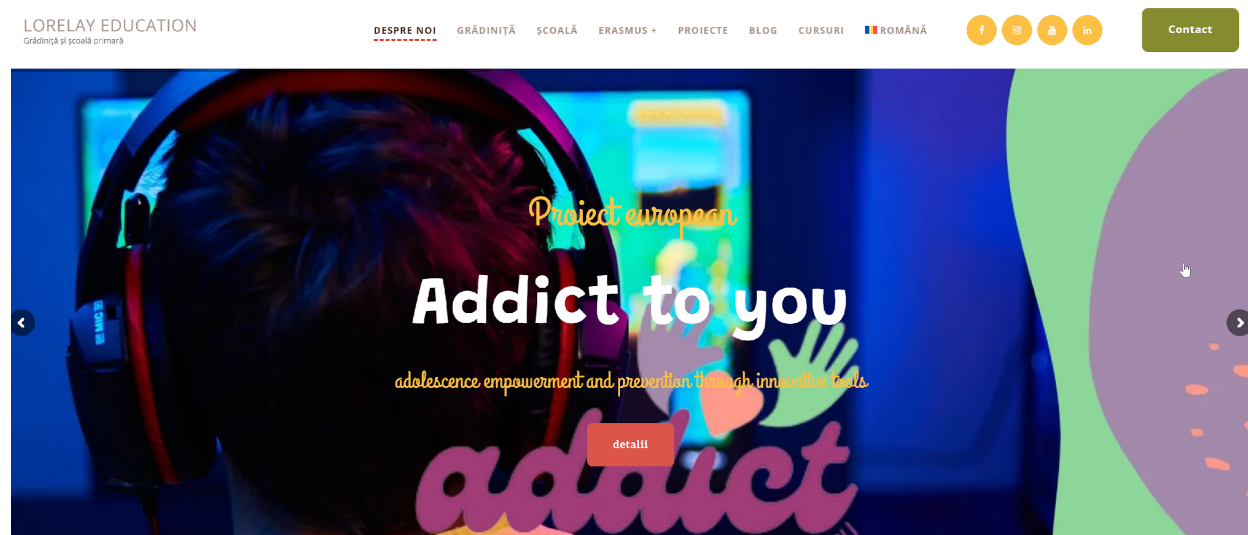
Website: www.lorelay.education

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/scoalaprimaralorelay>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lorelayschool/>

Linkedin: <https://ro.linkedin.com/company/gradinita-si-scoala-primara-lorelay>

Lorelay Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@ScoalaPrimaraLorelaylasi>





Who we are

Smartedu4all is a not for profit association that operates for civic, solidarity and social purposes, carrying out activities of general interest as in art. 5 of the Third Sector Code: education, instruction and professional training, according to the law of 28 March 2003, n. 53 and subsequent amendments, as well as cultural activities of social interest with a specific educational purpose.

Its founders are teachers and professionals who are experts in teacher training and in European projects for schools since 1999. In 2023 they decided to gather together and found Smartedu4all in Pinerolo (near Torino), Italy.

Our mission & focus

Our main goal is to share our expertise with educators, support schools and institutions in giving a European dimension to their curricula throughout Erasmus projects and organise opportunities for teachers to meet their European colleagues within Erasmus Key Action1.

The main goals are to promote:

- education and training for lifelong learning
- education and professional training of teaching staff for the acquisition of methods aimed at the innovation of school curricula and well-being
- education and training of the new generations for the development of smart skills, “intelligent skills”: curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, communication,



collaboration, self-mastery, digital and language skills

- education and training for the development of a responsible, intercultural, equitable, inclusive and European citizenship

Main activities & strengths

The association achieves its goals through the following activities:

- consultancy on school planning in a European dimension
- customized support and training services for teachers, schools, school networks, public and private educational and training bodies, associations;
- training courses for educational staff (teachers, school managers, school staff, parents, other figures in the education-vocational training sector), in presence – online or residential, at local-regional-national and also European level as part of the actions promoted by the European Community, aimed at promoting key competences;
- creation of a resource center for foreign languages and plurilingualism to support teachers in planning and language learning, with the possibility of borrowing books and didactic materials;
- organization and management of events, cultural and recreational activities of educational and social interest, also in residential form (conferences, exhibitions, cultural exchanges, etc.);
- collaboration with other national and international associations for publications, organization of events and cooperation actions promoted by the European Community;
- participation in European programs for cooperation in the youth and adult sector;



European-funded projects and collaborations

In the first two years of life, Smartedu4all has joined another KA210-SCH-58E6532A project “FAST - Fighting Antisemitism in Schools Together”, organised 10 European training courses for educators and school leaders, established cooperations with more than 30 Institutions at regional and national level, welcomed job shadowing in local schools from Japan Universities, Czech Republic, Romania, Sweden and Spain.

Thanks to international exchanges with European schools and Associations, teacher training courses, cooperation with local institutions, we aim to shape a generation of confident, active, creative, innovative, open minded teachers and educators.

For more information or to get involved, please visit our website or contact us directly.

Website: <https://www.smartedu4all.it/>

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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/smarteduerasmus/>

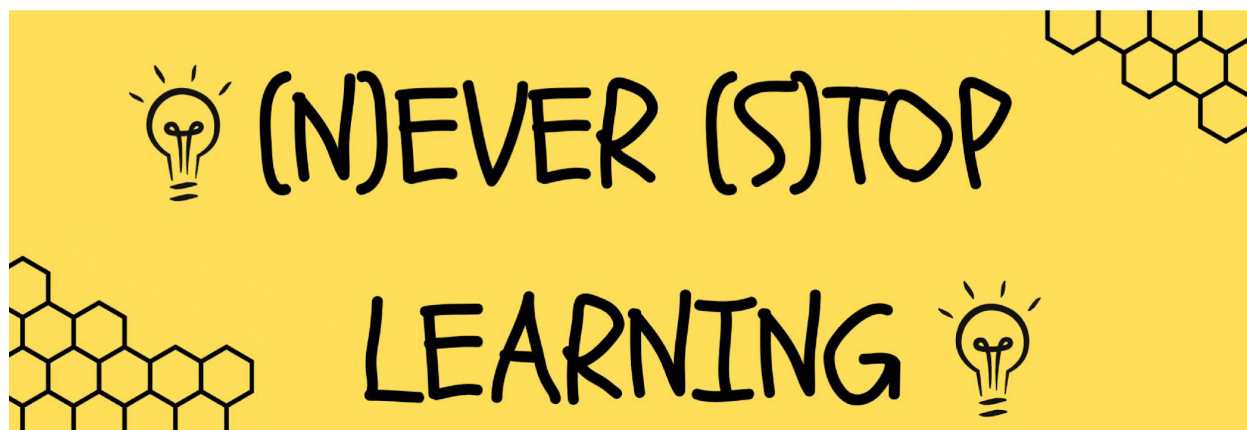
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Smartedu4all Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@Smartedu4all>



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Who we are

The **European Institute for Modern Board Games (EIMBG)** is an institution founded in July 2023 by professionals passionate about board games and their educational potential. With over a decade of experience using board games to educate children, adolescents, adults, and seniors, our founders saw an opportunity to create a dedicated space for the development and dissemination of board game-based learning.

Its founders are university PhD holders who have led various regional and European projects through universities and foundations over the past decade. Our institution is based in Valladolid, Spain, a well-connected city with a strong academic and cultural presence.

Our mission & focus

At EIMBG, we believe in the transformative power of board games as an educational tool. Our mission is to promote inclusive, engaging, and effective learning through two active methodologies:

- **Board Game-Based Learning (BGBL)** – Leveraging board games to facilitate knowledge acquisition and skill development.
- **Gamification** – Applying game mechanics to enhance motivation and engagement in learning environments.

Our goal is to train educators, share knowledge with peers, and apply these methodologies to various target groups, ensuring a meaningful and impactful learning experience for all participants.



Main activities & strengths

- **Educational Innovation** – Developing and validating board game-based learning methodologies across different educational levels (primary, vocational training, university).
- **Senior Education & Active Aging** – Implementing regional projects that use board games to improve cognitive stimulation and quality of life for people over 75 years old in nursing homes.
- **Personal Development & Team Building** – Conducting workshops that use modern board games for corporate training and professional development.
- **Gamified Learning Environments** – Designing gamified platforms and learning itineraries for various educational projects (e.g., 2018-2-ES02-KA205 6A2FC333, 2021-1-ES02-KA220-YOU-000028595).
- **Educational Board Game Design** – Creating custom board games for pedagogical purposes (2019-1-RO01-KA204-063821).
- **Trainer of Trainers** – Offering training in active learning methodologies, including serious game design and gamification.

European projects & collaborations

EIMBG actively engages in European collaborations and projects, leveraging our expertise to contribute to educational innovation. Our experience includes:

- **Development of gamified learning platforms** – Participation in Erasmus+ projects focused on creating interactive and engaging learning experiences.
- **Scientific research & impact measurement** – Applying the scientific method, statistical analysis, and quality assurance to validate and disseminate project outcomes at international conferences.
- **Collaboration with European institutions** – Working alongside universities, NGOs, and organizations to promote game-based learning and gamification.
- **SALTO Trainer & Mentor** – Through our expert Azael Herrero, we contribute disseminating project results and training educators in active learning methods.



Future goals

- Expand our involvement in European projects and strengthen our role within the Erasmus+ network.
- Become a reference institution in the use of modern board games for adult education and active aging.
- Enhance partnerships with academic institutions, businesses, and policy-makers to advance game-based learning.
- Promote scientific research in educational gamification and board game-based learning.
- Develop new training programs for educators and facilitators to integrate game-based methodologies into their teaching practices.

For more information or to get involved, please visit our website or contact us directly.

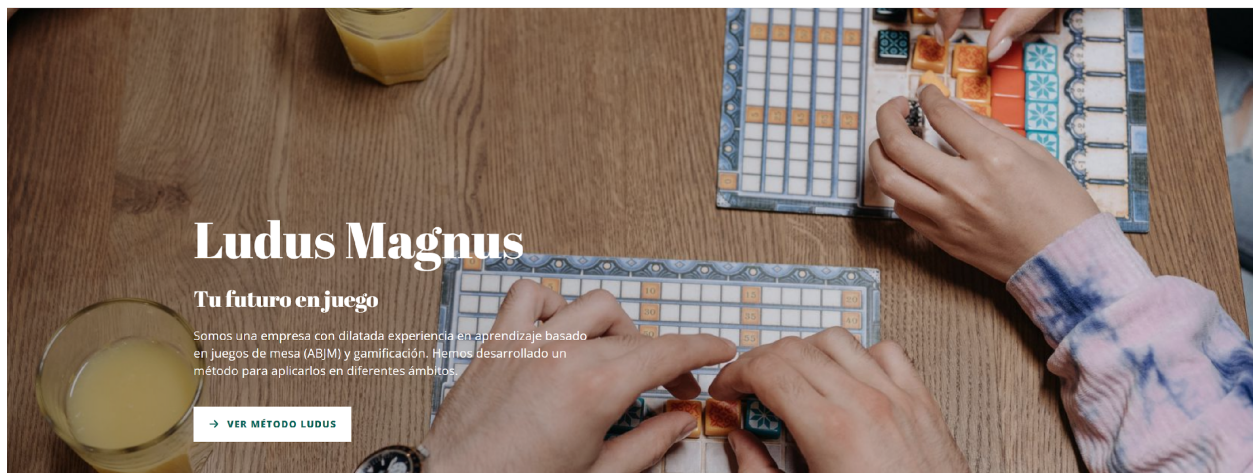
Website: <https://www.ludusmagnus.es/>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/azael-j-herrero-37285350/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574541994972>



QUIÉNES SOMOS MÉTODO LUDUS LUDUS MAGISTER LUDUS ERASMUS + BLOG CONTACTO





Chapter II. Exploring the Heart of Education: Values that Shape Learning

2.1. Relevance of the educational values

“The aim of education is the knowledge not of facts but of values.”-*William S. Burroughs*

Education is often viewed through the lens of knowledge acquisition, grades, and standardized test scores. Education is far more than a system of transmitting knowledge, it is a human journey of becoming. At its core, education is about shaping minds, hearts, and spirits. It is about helping learners grow not only in what they know, but in *who they are and who they are becoming*. Beyond grades and test scores lies a more enduring goal: to nurture individuals who are ethical, empathetic, intellectually curious, and socially responsible. To achieve this, education must be grounded in a strong foundation of educational values - the principles and beliefs that guide teaching, learning, relationships, and institutional practices.

In essence, educational values give education its true purpose: the holistic development of individuals and societies. They provide the foundation for a classroom culture built on respect, empathy, honesty, and responsibility. They guide how teachers interact with students, how students treat each other, how challenges are approached, and how success is defined. They are not merely "taught"; they are internalized, lived, modeled, and reinforced every day. They are not imposed, but nurtured. While knowledge answers the question “*What is this?*”, values explore the deeper question: “*Why does this matter?*”



To truly educate, we must ask not only “*What are we teaching?*” but also “*What kind of people are we helping our students become?*”

What are educational values

The issue of educational values is a critical one that lies at the heart of shaping responsible, ethical, and compassionate individuals. Educational values can be defined as the **ethical compass** of the learning experience. Without the proper integration of moral, civic, and humanistic values, education risks becoming a mechanical process that produces skilled workers rather than well-rounded, ethical citizens. Educational values are both individual and collective: internal beliefs that influence personal behavior, and shared ideals that shape school culture and educational policy. Educational values go beyond subject matter; they speak to how we live and learn together. They affect both the explicit curriculum (what is taught intentionally) and the hidden curriculum (what is learned through environment, behavior, and culture). These values guide:

- How teachers educate.
- How students engage with learning.
- How schools build community.
- How learning is applied to real-world contexts.

Key characteristics of educational values

- **Holistic** – Address the whole person, not just their academic skills.
- **Transformative** – Encourage personal growth and positive social change.
- **Universal** – Though culturally contextual, many core values (like respect or honesty) are globally recognized.
- **Developmental** – Grow with the individual through experience and reflection.

Types of educational values

Educational values can be categorized into different domains, all of which work together to support holistic development:



Intellectual values

These guide the pursuit of knowledge and critical thinking:

- Curiosity – A desire to explore, ask questions, and understand the world.
- Academic integrity – Honesty in learning and scholarship.
- Open-mindedness – Willingness to consider diverse perspectives.

Moral and ethical values

These shape a learner's conscience and behavior:

- Honesty – Telling the truth and acting with sincerity.
- Integrity – Staying true to moral principles in all situations.
- Compassion – Caring for others and showing kindness.

Social and civic values

These are essential for functioning as responsible, empathetic citizens:

- Respect – Valuing others' opinions, rights, and dignity.
- Cooperation – Working together towards common goals.
- Justice – Promoting fairness, equality, and inclusivity.

Emotional values

These guide inner strength and resilience:

- Perseverance – Continuing effort in the face of difficulty.
- Self-awareness – Recognizing one's emotions and behaviors.
- Empathy – Understanding and relating to others' feelings.

While education values are more focused on how people grow, think, and gain knowledge, they often overlap with other value types, such as cultural values (traditions, customs, and shared beliefs of a group), economic values (like productivity, efficiency, and profit) - personal values (unique to each person, like ambition or independence).



Why educational values matter

Educational values serve as the foundation upon which quality education is built. They remind us that true education isn't just about shaping minds — it's about shaping hearts. Integrating them in education leads to:

- **Humanizing the learning experience**

Without values, education can become cold, transactional, and disconnected from human needs. Educational values restore the **human element**, reminding us that every learner is a whole person — with emotions, dreams, struggles, and potential.

A school that embraces values prioritizes:

- Kindness over competition
- Dialogue over discipline
- Growth over perfection

- **Creating a safe and supportive environment**

Values are the invisible architecture of school culture. A commitment to values like respect, inclusion, and fairness creates environments where students feel emotionally safe, socially supported, and intellectually free to explore.

Example: In a school where respect is a core value, classroom norms might include giving everyone a chance to speak, listening without interruption, and resolving conflicts through conversation. This dramatically reduces bullying and exclusion and increases collaboration and belonging.

- **Promoting emotional and social well-being**

Educational values help students navigate emotions, build strong relationships, and respond to social situations with empathy and understanding. This is vital in today's complex, interconnected world. Values such as empathy, help students

Example: Teaching the value of empathy, kindness, and patience helps students



to understand diverse perspectives, de-escalate conflicts and build meaningful and respectful relationships

- **Equipping students for ethical decision-making**

We live in a world filled with moral ambiguity. From digital ethics to environmental responsibility, students need more than knowledge — they need **moral frameworks** to guide their decisions.

By engaging with educational values:

- Students learn to consider consequences, not just outcomes.
- They understand the importance of doing what is right, even when it is difficult.
- They develop a moral compass that extends far beyond the classroom

- **Equipping learners for global citizenship**

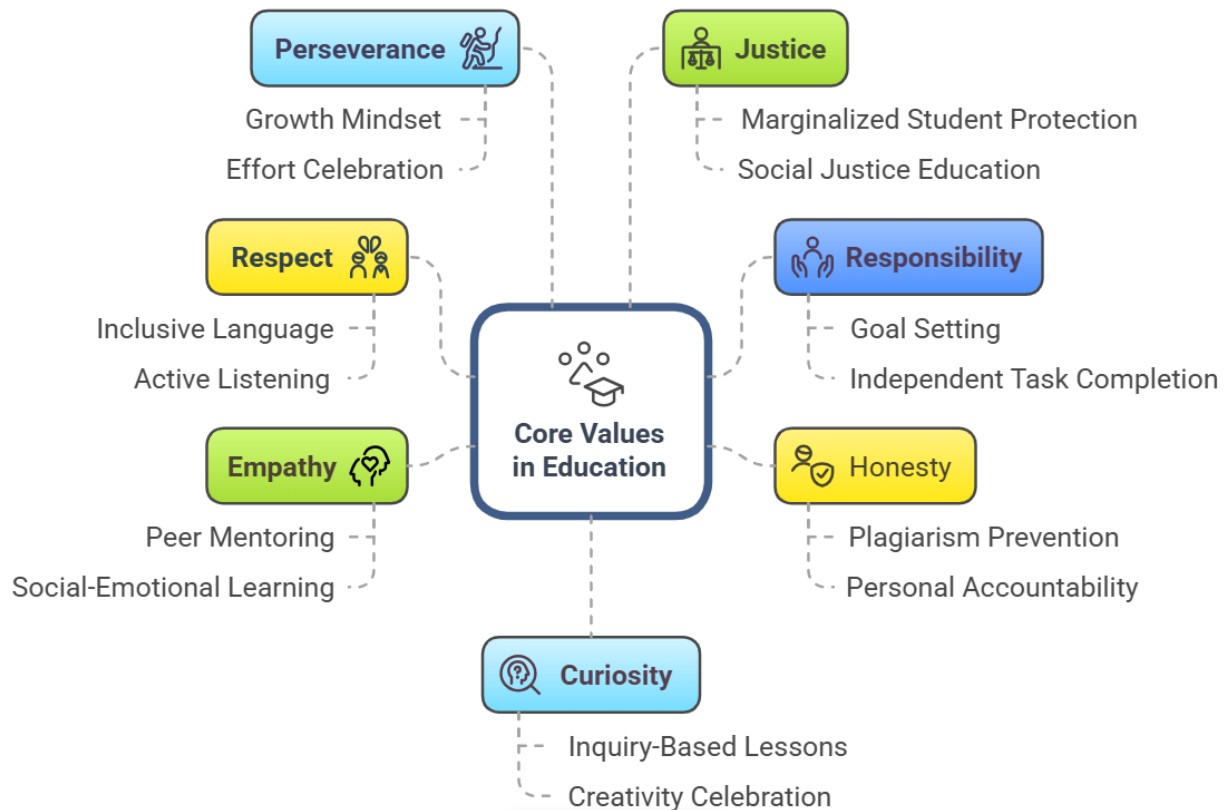
In a multicultural, interconnected world, students need values that promote **tolerance**, **diversity**, and **open-mindedness**. Educational values prepare them to engage constructively in global conversations and encourage learners to see themselves as part of a global community and fosters awareness of universal ethical principles and responsibilities.

Example: A curriculum that includes global issues, different cultural perspectives, and inclusive language fosters a generation of more culturally aware and adaptable individuals.



Core educational values: a closer look

Below are some widely accepted core values in education, along with practical applications in a school setting:



Conclusion

“Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.” Martin Luther King Jr.

Educational values are not abstract ideals — they are living principles that animate the heart of education. By prioritizing values alongside academic content, we develop learners who are:

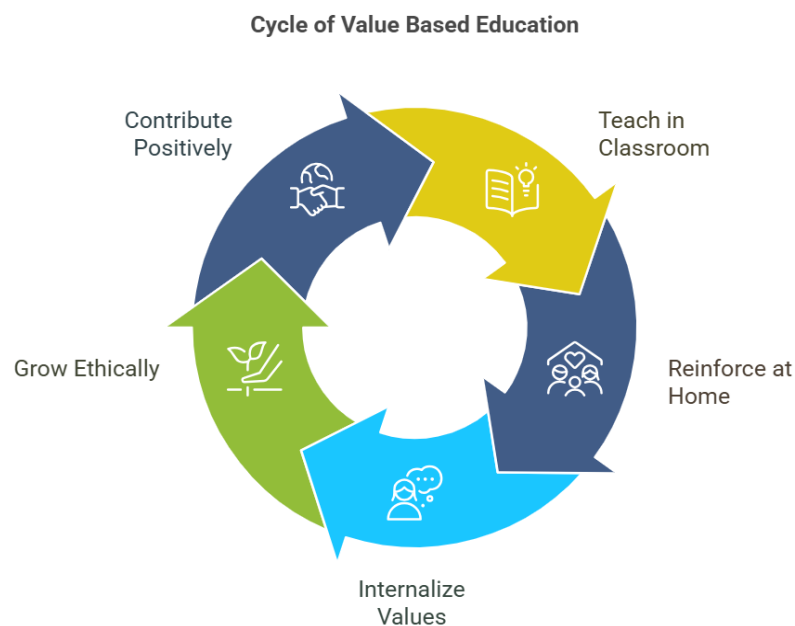
- Intellectually curious
- Socially engaged



- Emotionally intelligent
- Moral grounded

Educational values are not only taught in the classroom but are reinforced at home through everyday interactions, behaviors, and conversations. Parents play a crucial role in shaping the moral and ethical framework of their children. While schools can provide the structure and everyday practice, it is the active participation and modeling from parents that creates an environment where students truly understand and internalize the importance of values like respect, honesty, and responsibility.

When families and schools work together to emphasize these principles, children are more likely to grow into ethical, responsible, and compassionate individuals who contribute positively to society.



Reflection questions:

1. Which values are most visible in your classroom or school? Which are missing?
2. How do your teaching methods communicate the values you believe in?
3. What role can your school- community -parents play in strengthening value-based education?



2.2. A More Profound Look: Educational values as a multidimensional concept

The European Union Educational values

The European Union is founded on the following values:

- **Human dignity.** It is inviolable. It must be respected, protected and constitutes the real basis of fundamental rights.
- **Freedom.** Freedom of movement, individual freedoms such as respect for private life, freedom of thought, religion, assembly, expression and information.
- **Democracy.** Every adult EU citizen has the right to stand as a candidate and to vote. EU citizens have the right to stand as a candidate and to vote in elections to the European Parliament and in their country of residence, or in their country of origin.
- **Equality.** Equality is about equal rights for all citizens before the law; equality between women and men; equal pay for equal work.
- **Rule of law.** Law and justice are upheld by an independent judiciary. The EU countries gave final jurisdiction to the European Court of Justice - its judgments have to be respected by all.
- **Human rights.** The right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, the right to the protection of your personal data, and the right to get access to justice.

The partnership between schools and families is a central theme in European educational policies. Several European Union documents stress the importance of this partnership to promote inclusive and quality education. These are some of the documents that reflect the commitment to building fairer, more inclusive, and cohesive societies, where education plays a transformative role.

1. The *Council Recommendation on Common values, Inclusive Education, and the European Dimension of Teaching* (May 2018), proposed by the Commission and adopted by the Council, aims to promote a sense of belonging, sharing common



values, practicing inclusive education, and teaching about Europe and its Member States. The Recommendation also seeks to strengthen social cohesion, to fight xenophobia, radicalization, divisive nationalism and the spread of fake news. The key areas of actions are: promoting common values at all stages of education; fostering more inclusive education; encouraging a European dimension of teaching; offering a diverse range of support to teachers and educational institutions

2. The [“Council Recommendation on Integrated Learning Approaches \(2021\)”](#) calls on Member States to support the inclusion of all students by adapting education systems and promoting school-family collaboration.

3. [Eurydice Report 'Promoting Diversity and Inclusion at Schools in Europe' \(2024\)](#). This report provides an overview of initiatives undertaken in European education systems to address discrimination and promote diversity and inclusion, emphasizing the crucial role of school-family collaboration.

4. Document ['A comprehensive and integrated school approach in the fight against early school leaving' \(2015\)](#). Elaborated by the ET 2020 Working Group on EU School Policy, this document emphasizes the importance of an integrated approach involving families, communities and other stakeholders to prevent early school leaving

Other EU Documents

- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:12012P/TXT>
- Treaty of Lisbon-art.2 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=OJ%3AC%3A2007%3A306%3ATOC>
- European Values Series- Opne Press Tiu: <https://openpresstiu.pubpub.org/european-values-series>
- Atlas of European Values: <https://openpresstiu.pubpub.org/pub/atlasevs/release/5>



National educational values: Italy

In the Italian legislative documents for the primary cycle, the relationship between school and family is regulated and enhanced through various laws and institutional instruments that recognize the centrality of the collaboration between these two actors in the education of students:

- Italian Constitution art. [30](#), [33](#), [34](#) - *"It is the duty and right of parents to maintain, instruct and educate their children..."*;
- [Delegated Law No 477/1973](#) and [Delegated Decrees](#) - Legislative Decree No 297/1994 - The law establishes the participatory entry of families into the school.
- [Law 104/1992](#) - The Italian school promotes the school inclusion of all students, in particular those with special educational needs (BES) and disabilities, with the support of families.
- [Presidential Decree 235/2007 - Educational Pact](#) - it strengthens the school-family relationship through a shared assumption of responsibility and commits both parties to sharing its contents and respecting its commitments, in terms of the rights and duties of the parties.
- [National Curriculum Programs](#) (Indicazioni Nazionali) 2012 and [new scenarios 2018](#) - Law 107/2015. The school recognizes the role of the family as the student's first educational context, working together to enhance the student's individual, cultural and social characteristics.
- [National Civic Curriculum -Law 92, 2019](#) - core values that aim at the formation of conscious, responsible and active citizens in society and [new guidelines 2025](#)

From all these documents we can make a summary of educational values at National level:

- Democracy
- Freedom
- Equality
- Solidarity
- Legality



- Sustainability and environmental protection
- Active citizenship
- Respect
- Critical and responsible mindset
- Peace and peaceful coexistence
- Inclusion
- Identity and belonging
- Liability
- Culture of Rights and duties

Italian legislation also underlines that school and family have to recognize each other as fundamental partners in the education process, respecting each other's roles, competences and responsibilities. Together, they promote a climate of trust and collaboration, essential for the well-being and growth of the students. Their collaboration should be based on:

- Mutual respect
- Shared educational responsibility
- Open and transparent communication
- Active collaboration
- Educational coherence
- Inclusion and appreciation of diversity
- Promotion of integral well-being
- Development of autonomy and sense of responsibility
- Education for legality and active citizenship
- Enhancing the educational pact



National and Local educational values: Romania

In the Romanian legislative documents family is recognized as the first educator with a key role in shaping the personality of children. A balance between home education and school education is the key to successful learning. The role of parents is not limited to home education alone, but involves their active involvement in school life.

Here are some official documents related to education and values:

- [Ministry Document Education, March 2019](#). The values on which education in Romania is built are those of trust, equity, solidarity, effectiveness and autonomy.
- [Values from the national primary curriculum](#). This set of values gives concreteness to the vision of education and guides school life, the vision and mission of the school, the activity of teaching-learning-evaluation, the attitude of young people in and out of school:
 - Responsibility – assumed responsibility for one's own behavior and actions, conscious assumption of social responsibilities.
 - Respect - for oneself, for other people, for human rights, for diversity, for the environment.
 - Innovative spirit and creativity – openness to change, to the implementation of creative ideas through innovative solutions, the generation of new ideas and behaviors.
 - Excellence - the aspiration towards performance and results in accordance with the potential of each child;• Integrity – honesty , responsibility , attitude ethics;
 - Integrity – honesty, responsibility, ethical attitude.
 - Active citizenship - solidarity and participation for the common good.
 - Critical spirit – development of critical thinking, autonomy and reflexivity.
 - Perseverance – patience, perseverance and tenacity in work, in beliefs, in attitudes.
 - Resilience – adapting in a positive manner to adverse situations and overcoming challenges.



- The **National Educational Program** for values education: **"Play, respect and joy"** contains a list of several types of values - universal human values, personal values, national values, family values, spiritual values, without being exhaustive. The list can be completed with values proposed by teachers, parents or other collaborators of the educational unit.

1. Acceptance	13. Balance	25. Honesty
2. The Truth	14. Empathy	26. Patriotism
3. Help	15. Enthusiasm the	27. Perseverance
4. Altruism	16. Family	28. Punctuality
5. Kindness	17. The Beauty	29. Friendship
6. The Good	18. Generosity	30. Patience
7. Kindness	19. Forgiveness	31. Gratitude
8. Honesty	20. Trust	32. Respect
9. Fairness	21. Mutual aid	33. Responsibility
10. Faith	22. Understanding	34. Solidarity
11. Courage	23. Freedom	35. Tolerance
12. Love	24. Loyalty	36. Traditions

- At the level of **Iași county education**, the educational values promoted are aligned with both the national context and the specifics of the local community. These values aim to train students as responsible citizens, well-integrated socially and prepared for the challenges of a modern society. Here are some of the main educational values promoted:
 - Academic excellence and performance
 - Inclusion and equal opportunities
 - Respect for cultural diversity and local identity
 - Creativity and innovation



- Ethics and social responsibility
 - Personal development and emotional health
 - Sustainability and respect for the environment
 - Promoting technology and digitalization
 - Educational partnership
-
- Values promoted at **LORELAY PRIMARY SCHOOL**
 - Developing and valuing each child's potential
 - Gratefulness
 - Knowledge
 - Inner power
 - Inner calm
 - Joy
 - Love
 - Creativity
 - Connection
 - Abundance
 - Generosity
 - Kindness
 - Balance



National and Local educational Values: Spain

Spanish and Castilla y León educational **legislation** establishes a set of human values that must be promoted among Primary Education students:

- [Organic Law 2/2006, of May 3, on Education \(LOE\), amended by Organic Law 3/2020, of December 29 \(LOMLOE\)](#) (BOE No. 106, of May 4, 2006. BOE-A-2006-7899), states that the purpose of Primary Education is to provide students with learning in oral expression and comprehension, reading, writing, arithmetic, acquisition of basic cultural notions, **habits of coexistence**, study and work, artistic sense, **creativity**, and **affectivity**, in order to ensure comprehensive education that contributes to the full **development of their personality** and prepares them to successfully pursue Compulsory Secondary Education.
- [Royal Decree 157/2022, of March 1](#), highlights the importance of guidance and tutorial action to accompany the educational process of individuals and groups of students, promoting **mutual respect** and **cooperation** among peers. In the area of Civic and Ethical Values Education, the curriculum addresses a wide spectrum of values: Self-awareness and personal autonomy - Democratic coexistence and respect for norms- Sustainability and environmental ethics - Affective and emotional education Ethical and social commitment -Critical and ethical thinking:
- At local level [Decree 38/2022, of September 29](#), outlines **Civic and Ethical Values Education**. The curriculum for this area includes specific competencies such as developing critical and ethical thinking, managing emotions and feelings, affective-sexual education, empathy, respect for diversity, democratic coexistence, justice, human and children's rights, and respect for privacy.



From the above-mentioned legislation, we can summarize the following values that students in Castilla y León must develop during the Primary Education stage:

1. Respect for rules of coexistence
2. Development of individual and teamwork
3. habits
4. Responsibility in studies
5. Artistic sense and creativity
6. Emotional management and affectivity
7. Critical and ethical thinking
8. Affective-sexual education
9. Empathy and respect for diversity
10. Democratic coexistence and justice
11. Knowledge and respect for human rights and children's rights
12. Respect for privacy and responsible use of technology

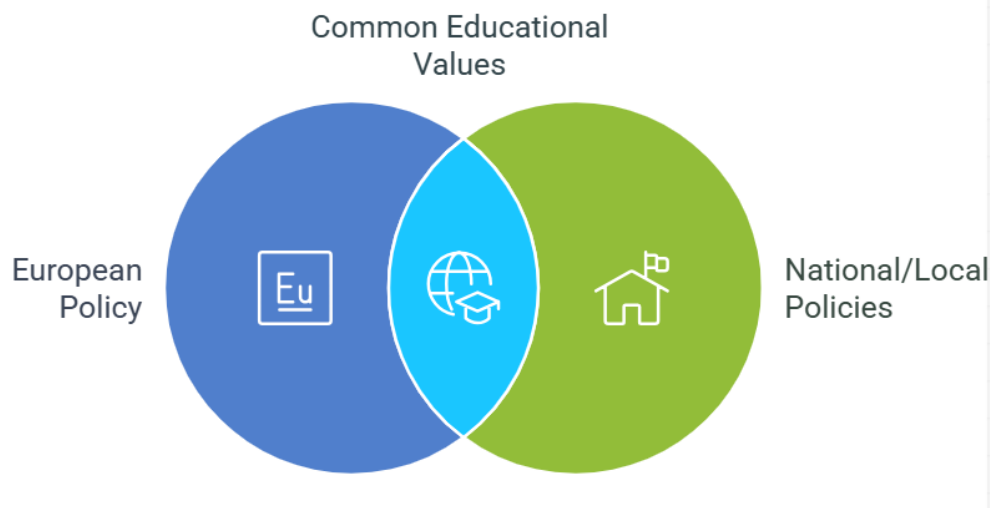
At **Jesuitinas Educational Foundation** the following values are promoted among its students:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Evangelical Climate | 9. Critical Thinking | 17. Communication |
| 2. Universal and Solidary Love | 10. Teamwork | 18. Creativity |
| 3. Simplicity and Closeness | 11. Personalized Education | 19. Evaluation |
| 4. Freedom | 12. Student Participation | 20. Service |
| 5. Joy | 13. Hierarchy of Values | 21. Availability |
| 6. Justice | 14. Attention to Diversity | 22. Communion |
| 7. Peace and Non-Violence | 15. Priority of Love | 23. Responsibility |
| 8. Faith-Culture Dialogue | 16. Motivation and Encouragement | 24. Openness |
| | | 25. Flexibility |
| | | 26. Agility |



Conclusion

The core educational values derived from European, Italian, Spanish and Romanian documents reflect a commitment to fostering inclusive, equitable and holistic education. By prioritizing inclusivity, critical thinking, autonomy and social responsibility, holistic development, human dignity, peace and non violence, simplicity and empathy, collaboration, freedom and rule of law, these educational frameworks aim to prepare students for a dynamic and interconnected world.



Reflection questions

1. *How do national contexts shape the way educational values are interpreted and applied?*
2. *If you had to design a curriculum that included European, Italian, Romanian, and Spanish values, how would you prioritize and integrate them?*
3. *Can you identify any cultural or historical reasons why some values are emphasized more in one country than another?*



4. *Which value do you think is most underdeveloped or underpracticed in your own educational experience? How could that be improved?*
5. *In what ways does the emphasis on school-family collaboration differ across the European, Italian, Romanian, and Spanish contexts, and what implications does this have for educational outcomes?*
6. *To what extent do the values promoted by EU-level policy documents (e.g. human dignity, freedom, rule of law) align with the specific cultural and legislative priorities of member states?*
7. *How do national educational frameworks address the balance between universal values (e.g. respect, solidarity) and context-specific needs (e.g. local identity in Iași or Evangelical climate in Jesuitinas schools)?*



2.3. Bringing values to life in the classroom

Values education forms the foundation of holistic learning, guiding students in their personal and social development. Schools play a pivotal role in shaping these values, ensuring that students not only acquire knowledge but also develop ethical reasoning, empathy, and civic responsibility. This chapter explores how values are practically integrated into educational settings, from policy frameworks to classroom strategies and assessment methodologies.

Integrating values into education

As previously discussed, values are often introduced through national and international educational frameworks (curriculum and educational policy documents). However, educational values are embedded in schools through various dimensions:

a. School culture and daily practices

Beyond the curriculum, schools reinforce values through:

- ❖ Code of conduct and school charters that promote respect, inclusivity, and integrity.
- ❖ Role modeling by educators, who exemplify ethical behavior and social responsibility.
- ❖ Extracurricular activities such as student councils, service-learning projects, and environmental initiatives.

Example: At Sunrise Primary School, values like respect, responsibility, and inclusivity are woven into everyday life. Each morning begins with a short assembly where students reflect on a "Value of the Week"—for instance, kindness—through a story or short skit performed by classmates. The school's code of conduct is visibly displayed in classrooms and hallways, using child-friendly language and symbols that help students understand expectations, such as "Use kind words" and "Take turns." Teachers model these values consistently, praising respectful behavior and addressing conflicts through restorative



conversations rather than punishment. A student council made up of elected pupils organizes monthly initiatives, like a “Clean-Up Challenge” to foster responsibility for shared spaces or “Thank You Week” to promote gratitude among peers and staff. These practices help create a positive atmosphere where values are not only taught but lived daily, making the school a nurturing environment for character development.

b. Pedagogical approaches to teaching values

Teachers can integrate values into classroom activities using:

- ❖ *Discussion-based learning*: Engaging students in ethical dilemmas and debates.

Example: In a 4th grade classroom, the teacher presents a simple ethical dilemma: “What should you do if you see your best friend take something that doesn’t belong to them?” Students are invited to share their opinions in small groups, guided by questions like “What is the fair thing to do?” and “How would you feel in that situation?” The teacher facilitates the discussion, helping students identify values such as honesty, loyalty, and courage, and reflect on how these can sometimes be in conflict. This process encourages moral reasoning, empathy, and respectful listening to diverse perspectives.

- ❖ *Storytelling and literature*: Using narratives or picturebooks-based learning to illustrate moral lessons, activate reflection, discussion or action taking.

Example: During a Personal Development lesson, the teacher reads “The Invisible Boy” by Trudy Ludwig, which tells the story of a child who feels excluded at school. After the reading, students discuss how the main character might have felt and what they could do to make sure no one in their class feels invisible. They then draw their own “inclusion superhero” who helps children feel seen and valued. This activity brings out values like empathy, inclusion, and kindness, using narrative to build emotional understanding.



- ❖ ***Project-based learning (PBL)***: Encouraging collaboration and problem-solving with a values-oriented focus.

Example: In a cross-curricular project titled “Our Caring Community,” students work in small teams to identify a need in their school or neighborhood (e.g., litter in the park, loneliness among elderly residents). Each group develops a mini campaign or service action—like organizing a park clean-up or writing cards for a local senior home. The project integrates subjects like language arts (writing letters), art (designing posters), and social studies (community mapping) while promoting values such as responsibility, collaboration, and citizenship.

- ❖ ***Experiential learning***: Service-learning, volunteerism, and role-playing exercises that develop empathy and responsibility.

Example: In a classroom role-play activity, students act out different scenarios of playground conflict—one with shouting and blame, and another with calm communication and listening. They then discuss which resolution was more respectful and why. In another activity, the class visits a local animal shelter, helping to prepare care packages and learning about empathy, care for others, and volunteering. These experiences help internalize values through real or simulated social interactions.

- ❖ ***Board game-based learning***: Utilizing board games as an interactive and engaging tool to teach ethical decision-making, cooperation, and strategic thinking in a values-driven context.

Example: The teacher introduces a cooperative board game like “Outfoxed!” where students must work together to solve a mystery. The game requires taking turns, sharing clues, and making joint decisions. After playing, the teacher leads a reflection session where students discuss how they helped each other and what made their teamwork successful. This allows the class to explicitly connect the experience with values such as cooperation, strategic thinking, communication, and fairness.



Skills developed through values-based education

Integrating values into school curricula fosters key competencies:

- ❖ *Critical thinking & ethical reasoning*: Encouraging students to analyze moral dilemmas and make informed decisions.
- ❖ *Emotional intelligence*: Developing self-awareness, empathy, and resilience.
- ❖ *Intercultural competence*: Understanding diverse perspectives and fostering inclusivity.
- ❖ *Civic engagement*: Encouraging participation in democratic processes and community service.

Example: At Harmony Primary School, a month-long interdisciplinary project called “Voices of the Community” is designed to help students understand the concept of community, diversity, and responsibility. The unit begins with a classroom discussion where students are presented with a moral dilemma: “The local playground is often left full of litter. Some students blame teenagers who hang out there, while others say it’s not their responsibility.” Students work in groups to explore the issue from different viewpoints—residents, young children, teenagers, shop owners—practicing critical thinking and ethical reasoning as they discuss fairness, responsibility, and potential solutions.

To develop emotional intelligence, students reflect on how the people involved might feel. They journal about times they’ve felt unfairly judged or misunderstood and are guided in group discussions on empathy, resilience, and how assumptions can hurt others. Teachers support emotional vocabulary development and help students role-play responses to conflict and misunderstanding, encouraging self-awareness and compassion.

As the project expands, the class explores the intercultural makeup of their town. Students interview parents, neighbors, or staff about cultural traditions, values, and personal stories of moving to the area. They learn about differences in family customs, communication styles, and even local challenges faced by various groups. This deepens their intercultural competence, as they start to understand and appreciate perspectives



beyond their own, and see the richness that diversity brings to their community.

The project culminates in an act of civic engagement: students plan and carry out a community “Clean & Celebrate Day.” They write persuasive letters to the city council to request support, create posters inviting families to join, and prepare short speeches to present during the event. Students take turns leading clean-up teams, hosting storytelling corners to share what they’ve learned, and creating “thank you” messages for volunteers. Through this, they take an active role in improving their environment while applying their values in a real-world context.

Throughout the unit, the classroom transforms into a space of reflection, collaboration, and civic action. Students not only learn about community issues—they become part of the solution. By integrating values into their academic tasks, they build the skills needed to become thoughtful, ethical, and socially responsible citizens.

Practical strategies for implementing values in schools

To effectively integrate values education, schools can adopt the following strategies:

- ❖ *Embedding values in lesson plans:* Ensuring all subjects include ethical discussions.
- ❖ *Creating a values-based learning environment:* Encouraging inclusivity, respect, and collaboration.
- ❖ *Encouraging student participation in governance:* Involving students in school decision-making.
- ❖ *Utilizing gamification and board games:* Interactive learning methods that promote ethical decision-making.
- ❖ *Using picturebooks:* as facilitating tools to activate reflection, discussion, reinforce values and promote action taking.
- ❖ *Engaging parents and communities:* Strengthening school-family partnerships for reinforcing values at home.



Example: At Elm Tree Primary School, the staff decide to implement a school-wide initiative called “The Garden of Values”, designed to grow ethical awareness and empathy throughout the school community. The initiative is rooted in six interconnected strategies that bring values education into the heart of everyday learning and interaction.

1. Embedding values in lesson plans

Each subject incorporates ethical reflection relevant to its content. In science, students studying plants explore the theme of interdependence, drawing parallels with teamwork and respect in human relationships. In language arts, while reading fables, they discuss morals and how the characters’ actions relate to honesty, responsibility, and courage. Math lessons include group problem-solving where collaboration is evaluated as much as accuracy, emphasizing values like fairness and perseverance.

2. Creating a values-based learning environment

Classrooms and hallways are decorated with “value vines”—strings of leaves, each carrying a handwritten value or compliment from one student to another. Conflict-resolution charts and emotion-regulation corners are available in each class, promoting self-awareness and kindness. Teachers model respectful interactions and guide students in using positive language and active listening. Students are regularly celebrated not only for academic achievements but for acts of empathy, integrity, and helpfulness.

3. Encouraging student participation in governance

A Values Council made up of student representatives from each grade meets monthly with teachers to share ideas, raise concerns, and help shape school decisions—such as choosing the next “value of the month.” These meetings cultivate democratic participation, responsibility, and leadership. Students also help design and run peer mediation programs and buddy systems that promote inclusion and kindness, especially for new or shy pupils.

4. Using gamification and board games

Weekly “Values Hour” includes educational games where students must



cooperate, strategize, and reflect on outcomes. For example, the school uses a custom-made game called “Ethic Quest,” where teams face challenges related to decision-making, fairness, and teamwork. Teachers debrief after each game session, discussing how the choices made during gameplay mirror real-life situations, helping students practice ethical reasoning in a safe, engaging format.

5. Using picturebooks as reflection tools

Each class has a values-focused picturebook library. Once a week, the teacher reads aloud a book such as “Have You Filled a Bucket Today?” (about kindness) or “The Name Jar” (about identity and respect for diversity). Students then engage in structured reflection using art, drama, or group discussion. They draw connections between the story’s message and their own experiences, deepening their understanding of values like inclusion, respect, and self-worth.

6. Engaging parents and communities

The initiative extends beyond the school walls. Parents are invited to monthly “Family Values Workshops,” where they explore how to reinforce school values at home through storytelling, games, and conversations. A Values Wall in the entrance displays photos of families doing small acts of kindness or community service together. Local community members—firefighters, artists, senior volunteers—are invited to share how values guide their lives, showing students how these principles apply in the real world.

Assessment tools for values education

Measuring values education requires innovative approaches, as traditional assessments may not fully capture ethical development. Common assessment tools include:

- ❖ **Self-reflection journals:** Encouraging students to document their values-learning experiences.

Example: “My Weekly Values Journal”



In a 3rd grade class, each student keeps a “Values Journal” where they write or draw about their experiences related to the weekly classroom value (e.g., respect, responsibility, empathy). After a class activity focused on sharing and kindness, students are prompted with questions like: “When did I show kindness this week?” or “How did it feel when someone was kind to me?” The teacher reviews the journals weekly, noting the depth of reflection and emotional awareness. Over time, these journals help students connect their learning to real-life experiences and develop greater self-awareness.

- ❖ **Observational assessments:** Teachers and peers evaluate behavior and decision-making processes.

Example: “The Values Observation Grid”

During group work or class discussions, the teacher uses an observation grid to monitor specific behaviors related to core values, such as active listening, fair turn-taking, or helping others without being asked. For example, while students work in small groups on a project about recycling, the teacher notes moments of cooperation, empathy, and initiative. These observations are discussed with students in feedback sessions, helping them see the link between their actions and values.

- ❖ **Scenario-based evaluations:** Assessing responses to ethical dilemmas.

Example: “What Would You Do?” Ethical Choices Activity

Students are presented with short stories or illustrated scenarios in which characters face moral dilemmas—such as finding a lost wallet or witnessing a classmate being left out. Students are asked to write or talk about what they would do and why. For instance, after reading about “Luca,” who sees his friend cheat on a test, students choose how they would respond and explain their reasoning. The teacher assesses their ability to identify the values at stake (e.g., honesty, loyalty) and make ethical decisions based on empathy and fairness.

- ❖ **Community engagement projects:** Evaluating students' participation in service-learning initiatives.

Example: “Kindness in Action – Mini Service Project”



After a values-based learning unit, students in Year 5 organize a small community action, such as creating thank-you cards for school staff or assembling care kits for a local shelter. Each student is responsible for a role—planning, making posters, writing cards, or presenting the project. Their engagement, teamwork, and responsibility are assessed through rubrics that include both task completion and value demonstration (e.g., cooperation, initiative, empathy). A short group reflection afterward reinforces what they learned through service.

- ❖ ***Surveys and questionnaires:*** Tools like the Moral Identity Questionnaire¹ and Short Schwartz's Values Survey² help gauge ethical awareness.

Example: "My Values Snapshot" Survey

At the beginning and end of a school term, students complete an adapted child-friendly version of the Short Schwartz's Values Survey using smiley face scales and visual prompts. It includes items like "Being fair is important to me" or "I like helping others", rated from "Not really" to "Very true for me." Teachers compare pre- and post-surveys to track growth in students' ethical awareness. The survey results are used not for grading, but to guide further classroom discussions and to help individual students reflect on their evolving understanding of values.

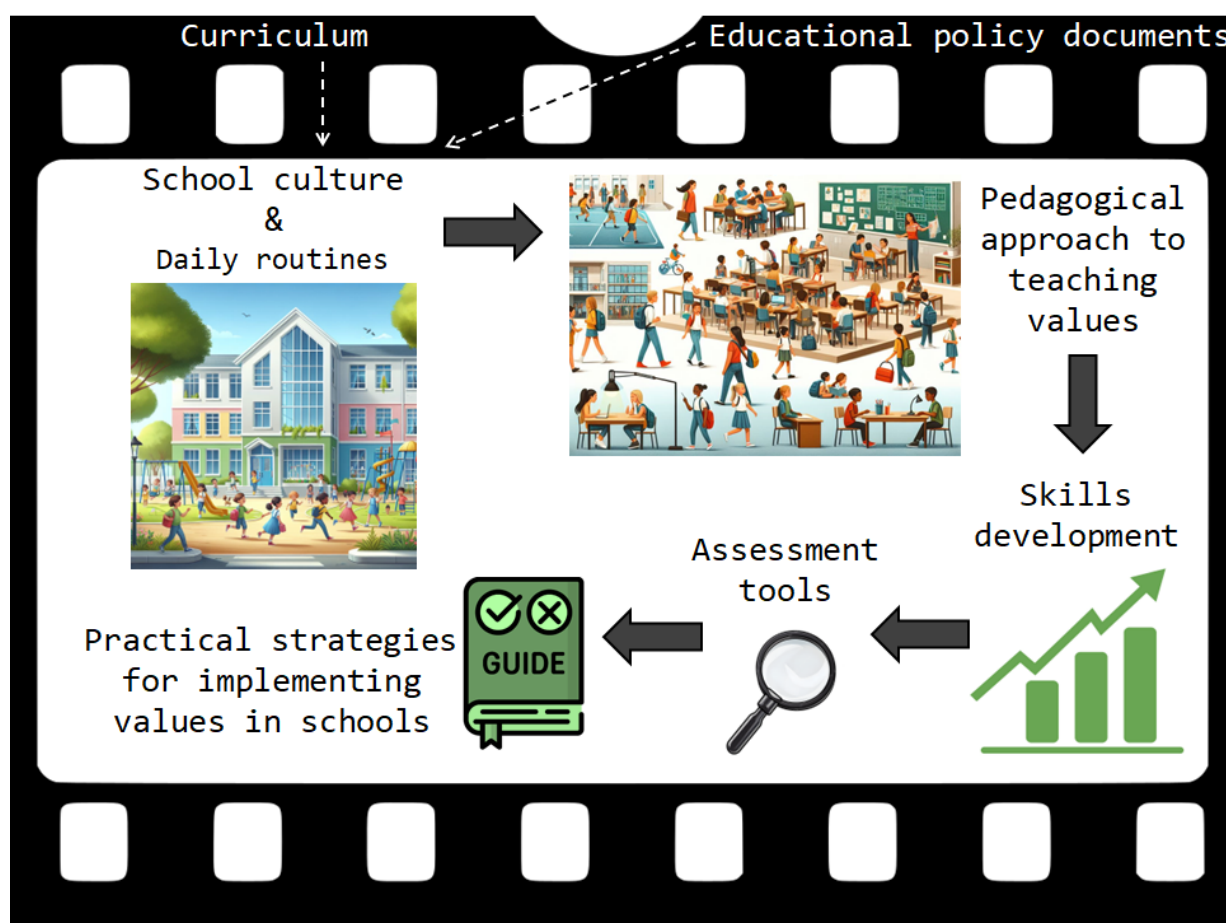
¹ Tissot, T.T., Van Hiel, A., Haerens, L. et al. The Moral Identity Questionnaire predicts prosocial behavior better than the Moral Identity Scale. *Curr Psychol* 42, 22738–22744 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-022-03361-y>

² Lindeman, M., & Verkasalo, M. (2005). Measuring Values With the Short Schwartz's Value Survey. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 85(2), 170–178. https://doi.org/10.1207/s15327752jpa8502_09



Conclusion

Values education is an ongoing process that requires commitment from educators, policymakers, students, and families. By integrating ethical reasoning, social responsibility, and emotional intelligence into schooling, we can foster well-rounded individuals prepared to contribute positively to society.



Outline of the main components of the practical vision of values education.



Reflection questions

1. *How do daily school practices, such as assemblies or role modeling by teachers, contribute to the internalization of values more effectively than curriculum-based instruction alone?*
2. *In what ways can pedagogical methods like storytelling, project-based learning, or gamification serve as effective tools for fostering ethical reasoning and emotional intelligence in students?*
3. *To what extent should student voice and agency—through mechanisms like student councils or peer mediation—be central in shaping a school’s values education strategy?*
4. *How might partnerships with families and local communities enhance or complicate the implementation of a values-based approach in education?*



Chapter III. Bridging Home and School: The Role of Parenting in Value Education

3.1. Creating a values-driven family environment

A values-driven family environment is one in which shared principles guide the behaviors, interactions, and decisions of all members, fostering positive relationships, personal development, and a sense of purpose. Creating such an environment is critical not only for the well-being of individual family members but also for the overall health and harmony of the family system. This theoretical guide explores the significance of fostering a family environment rooted in core values, supported by relevant psychological and sociological theories. It also offers insights into how families can intentionally create and maintain a values-driven atmosphere.

The importance of values in the family context

Values in a family context refer to the beliefs and standards that members hold regarding what is important, desirable, and morally right. These values inform how family members interact, communicate, resolve conflicts, and support one another. Shared family values can help individuals feel more secure, promote healthy interpersonal dynamics, and provide a sense of continuity and belonging. According to Erikson's psychosocial development theory (1950), the family environment plays a crucial role in shaping an individual's sense of identity and their capacity to form meaningful relationships. When these values are clearly communicated and reinforced, they help



children understand expectations and develop a sense of responsibility, empathy, and ethical understanding.

In the family context, values provide structure and influence every aspect of family life—from interpersonal relationships to societal engagement and are essential building blocks for individual identity and collective family integrity. They act as guiding principles for conduct, shaping perceptions of right and wrong, and fostering a shared understanding within the household and the broader society.

Many documents collectively highlight a *spectrum of family-related values*, with significant overlap. Key themes include:

- **Respect:** Emphasized as a cornerstone of ethical family relationships. Respect for elders, cultural beliefs, and each family member's individuality is vital for harmony.
- **Responsibility:** Parents bear the responsibility of not only providing basic needs but also inculcating moral and ethical values. Children are expected to act responsibly within the family and society.
- **Love and affection:** These emotional values support psychological security and social bonding. They form the emotional infrastructure of the family.
- **Honesty and integrity:** These values are foundational to trust and transparency in family communication.
- **Unity and cooperation:** Families are encouraged to operate as cohesive units. This unity fosters emotional well-being and helps weather challenges collectively.
- **Hard work and discipline:** Stressed particularly in the context of role modeling by parents. These values promote personal growth and societal contribution.
- **Spiritual and religious values:** Particularly emphasized in parental responsibilities, spiritual grounding is linked to moral development and ethical behavior.

The materials consistently point to *parents* as the primary conduits of value transmission. Parents model, teach, and reinforce values and children internalize these values not only through verbal instruction but also by observing consistent



behaviors in their role models. The social value of strong family ethics extends beyond the home. Families that instill values such as respect, fairness, and empathy contribute to:

- Reduced conflict within society,
- Higher civic responsibility,
- Greater social cohesion,
- A more ethically grounded younger generation.

Many documents specifically connect personal values to broader community health and national development, highlighting how value-based families serve as a stabilizing force.

Despite their importance, maintaining and transmitting values is challenged by:

- Modern lifestyle pressures,
- Media influence,
- Intergenerational gaps in belief systems,
- Parental neglect or inconsistency in modeling values.

These factors can dilute the clarity and strength of value-based upbringing unless families are proactive and deliberate in their ethical commitments.

In synthesis, the **values are both the essence and the engine** of family life and social development. They shape behaviors, influence decisions, and determine the long-term well-being of individuals and families alike. A value-driven family nurtures not just moral citizens but also contributes significantly to a more empathetic, responsible, and unified society.



Theoretical foundations supporting a values-driven family environment

Values are the guiding principles and beliefs that influence how individuals think, behave, and interact within families and society. In family theory, values play a central role in shaping dynamics, communication, and development. The following guide explores how major family theories incorporate the concept of values.

A. Bioecological theory (Urie Bronfenbrenner)

This theory emphasizes that human development occurs through interactions between the individual and multiple layers of their environment, from immediate surroundings (microsystem) to broader social ideologies (macrosystem).

- Relevance of values: values are transmitted through the systems surrounding a child. Cultural values (e.g., collectivism, individualism, education, gender norms) are embedded in the macrosystem and influence child development.
- Example: a family that values cooperation may structure household routines to encourage teamwork, directly shaping the child's behavior and worldview.

B. Family Systems Theory (Bowen, 1978)

Family systems theory views the family as an interconnected unit where each member affects the functioning of the whole system. This perspective emphasizes the dynamic interplay between family members and the need for mutual influence and support. In a values-driven family environment, shared values help create a cohesive system where members work together toward common goals, resolve conflicts constructively, and offer emotional support to one another. Bowen's theory suggests that when values such as mutual respect, communication, and empathy are prioritized, the family unit functions more harmoniously and helps its members navigate life's challenges

- Relevance of values: shared family values guide communication styles, problem-solving, and emotional responses. Values like respect, loyalty, or independence help maintain balance and cohesion.
- Example: a family that prioritizes respect for elders may have specific behavioral expectations and rules shaped by this value.



C. Functionalism

Functionalism sees the family as a social institution that fulfills essential functions for society: reproduction, socialization, and stability. From a sociological standpoint, the family is the primary agent of socialization, where children learn societal norms, ethics, and behaviors. Socializing agents within the family - such as parents, siblings, and extended family - play a role in imparting values that are important to the culture and community. By fostering a values-driven family environment, families actively contribute to the social fabric of their communities, perpetuating cultural traditions and ethical principles. Theories of cultural transmission, such as those outlined by sociologists like Pierre Bourdieu (1986) in his concept of cultural capital, suggest that the values and behaviors passed down within a family help children acquire the social tools necessary for functioning within a broader societal context.

- Relevance of values: values serve as tools for maintaining social order. Families pass down cultural values that support societal norms and roles.
- Example: families may emphasize discipline and punctuality to prepare children for roles in structured environments like school or the workforce.

D. Conflict theory

Conflict Theory focuses on power struggles, inequality, and competition within families and larger society.

- Relevance of values: values often reflect the interests of those in power. In the family, disagreements may arise over competing values (e.g., traditional vs. modern roles, control vs. autonomy).
- Example: a generational conflict may occur when a young adult resists a family's conservative values in favor of progressive beliefs.

E. Symbolic interactionism

This micro-level theory emphasizes that people create and interpret meaning through daily social interactions. Albert Bandura's social learning theory highlights the role of modeling, imitation, and reinforcement in the learning process. Families are the first socializing agents in a child's life, and the behaviors parents exhibit strongly influence



children's behavior. For instance, when parents model the values of honesty, compassion, and responsibility, children are likely to imitate these behaviors and integrate them into their own value system. Moreover, positive reinforcement (e.g., praise for acting in alignment with family values) encourages children to continue practicing these behaviors. The family, as a primary context for learning, becomes a crucible for the internalization of values that persist across the lifespan.

- **Relevance of values:** values are not just inherited—they are negotiated and interpreted through language and symbols within the family.
- **Example:** a parent consistently praising kindness may reinforce this value in the child's identity and behavior through repeated interactions.

F. Psychological theories

These theories (e.g., attachment theory, behaviorism, humanistic psychology) focus on individual development within the family context. John Bowlby's attachment theory underscores the importance of early relationships in emotional and social development. A values-driven family environment fosters secure attachments by providing consistent support, emotional warmth, and guidance. Families that prioritize values such as respect, empathy, and emotional availability help children feel safe and loved. This security provides the foundation for healthy emotional regulation, positive self-esteem, and a capacity for forming secure relationships outside the home. When parents actively model these values and nurture attachment, children are more likely to internalize them and apply them throughout their lives.

- **Relevance of values:** children internalize values through relationships and emotional experiences. These values shape their personality, motivation, and moral development.
- **Example:** a securely attached child who experiences consistent nurturing may internalize values like trust and empathy.

While each theory offers a unique lens on family life, all recognize—implicitly or explicitly—the crucial role of values. Whether passed through culture, modeled in daily behavior, or internalized through relationships, values are the threads that tie family



theories to real-life dynamics. Understanding this connection can help educators, counselors, and caregivers support positive development and relationships.

Strategies for creating a values-driven family environment

a. Defining core values

The first step in creating a values-driven family environment is for the family to explicitly define the values that are important to them. These might include respect, honesty, responsibility, kindness, and perseverance. This process should be collaborative, involving all members of the family, from parents to children, to ensure that everyone has input and feels connected to the values being upheld. Having clear, articulated values creates a shared understanding of what is expected of each family member.

b. Modeling values consistently

One of the most effective ways to instill values in children is through modeling. According to Bandura's social learning theory, children learn by observing the behaviors of adults in their lives. Parents and caregivers should actively demonstrate the values they wish to pass on. For example, if one of the core values is empathy, parents should model empathetic behavior by showing understanding and support for each other's emotions, and encourage their children to do the same.

c. Reinforcement and positive feedback

Reinforcing positive behaviors that align with family values helps children internalize those values. Positive reinforcement through praise, rewards, and acknowledgment strengthens the likelihood of the behavior being repeated. For instance, when a child demonstrates kindness or honesty, reinforcing these actions with praise helps them understand the importance of these values and encourages them to continue practicing them.

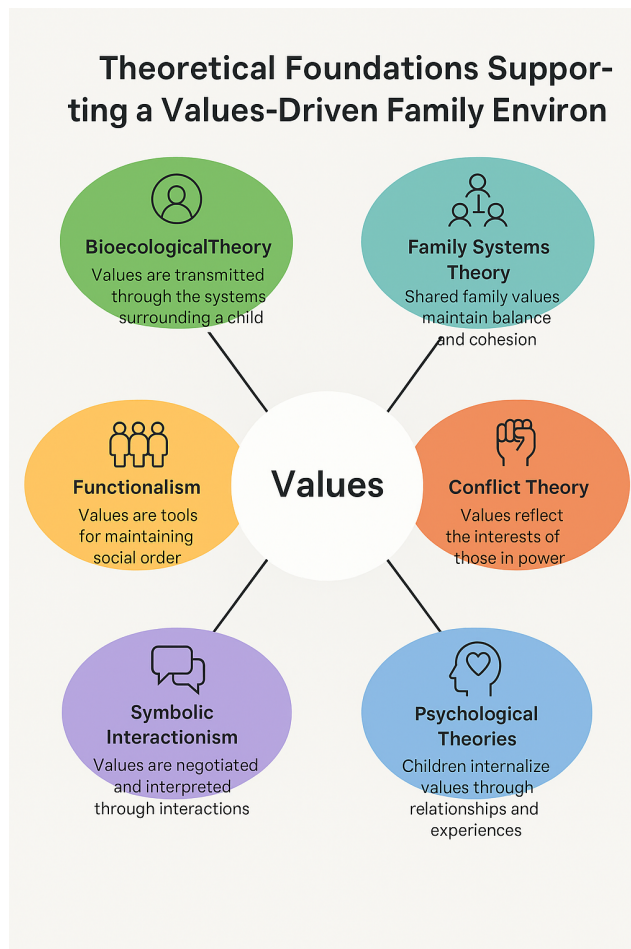


d. Open communication

A values-driven family environment thrives on open communication, where members feel heard, respected, and understood. Family members should be encouraged to discuss their values, share concerns, and resolve conflicts in ways that reflect the shared values. Family meetings, regular check-ins, and conflict-resolution strategies all contribute to an environment where values are upheld in daily interactions.

e. Building rituals and traditions

Rituals and traditions help reinforce family values in a meaningful way. Regular family activities, such as shared meals, community service projects, or holiday celebrations, allow the family to express and reinforce their values. These rituals become opportunities for family members to connect, celebrate shared beliefs, and create lasting memories that reinforce the values central to their family identity.





Conclusion

Creating a values-driven family environment is essential for fostering emotional well-being, social competence, and positive relationships among family members. Supported by theories such as attachment theory, social learning theory, and family systems theory, the intentional cultivation of a value-driven atmosphere promotes resilience, security, and a strong sense of identity. Through consistent modeling, reinforcement, open communication, and shared rituals, families can create an environment where values are not only taught but also lived. The result is a cohesive, supportive family unit where each member is equipped with the tools to thrive in both personal and social contexts.

Reflections questions

1. *What are the core values your family prioritizes, and how are they communicated and reinforced in daily life?*
2. *In what ways do your actions as a parent align with the values you hope to instill in your children?*
3. *How does your family handle differences in values—whether between parents, generations, or external influences?*
4. *What family routines, traditions, or practices effectively support value transmission and emotional connection?*
5. *What challenges do you face in maintaining a consistent values-driven environment, and how might you address them?*



3.2. Creating a shared school-family framework rooted in values

School and family are two fundamental institutions of society, with the role of forming and educating future generations. They share many common values that contribute to the harmonious development of the individual. The existence of a permanent partnership between school and family is of great importance. School without family and vice versa cannot ensure the full success of the child, given that the interests of some contradict deontological norms and the educational ideal.

The right to education is one of the fundamental human rights. The current European schools, by promoting democracy and equal opportunities for access to cultural values and the goods of life, gives the notion of education new meanings in accordance with the evolution of education systems in other countries but also with the evolution of society. The emergence of new education (ecological education, education for peace, cooperation and nonviolence, education for participation and democracy, intercultural education, education for communication and mass media, education for change and development, nutritional education, modern economic and domestic education, education for leisure) is a certain reality and requires the adaptation of traditional education in other educational areas in accordance with a number of new guidelines, techniques and methods.

What does "family involvement in education" actually mean? It is a long-term process, which involves a lot of activities. The answer may be "reading a story before bedtime...", "checking homework every night...", "talking to teachers about children's progress", "helping the school establish performance standards", "limiting TV viewing", becoming a supporter of better education in the community to which one belongs and insisting on imposing high standards of behavior for children. Family involvement in school life is conditioned by the family's degree of interest in school. The more school represents a value for the family, the greater the degree of family involvement. It is found that those children who are supported by their parents achieve high school performance and have a high degree of aspiration towards the level of schooling they want to reach.



Common school-family values

Among the most important common school-family values are:

A. Education and knowledge: Both school and family promote continuous learning and intellectual development. The family teaches its children by example and by transmitting fundamental values, and the school aims to provide academic knowledge and cultivate values such as respect for education, discipline and responsibility. The first step in learning is to imitate what is seen in family members. Therefore, increased attention is needed within the family to provide appropriate models for harmonious development, a healthy education for the child. The family stimulates interest in education, science, through its own conduct. Sharing experiences at work captures the child's attention for a field of activity in which they can prepare and practice in the future. It is known that they embrace professions similar to those of their parents or other family members, sisters, brothers, grandparents, etc. The family leaves a decisive mark on intellectual development. Through play, work and education, the family contributes to the child's mental development, constantly stimulating him. It offers him the optimal framework for interacting with others, thinking, putting himself in new situations, and seeking solutions. From the family, the child learns how to speak correctly, to address people of the same age, younger or older, to greet, to have beautiful, appropriate behavior in society. The development of a taste for reading begins with the first story told by the mother. Attention, memory, intellect, language and imagination develop along the way. Reading and writing are encouraged by the family by simply buying the first book with illustrations, through visits to the library and bookstore. The first poems, riddles, fairy tales, historical stories, cartoons and films about animals, nature, cosmos contribute to the openness to the culture that the child will later develop.

B. Morality and ethics: Both the family and the school are the environments where the child learns about fundamental values, such as respect for others, empathy, honesty and teamwork. The family is the first place where the child learns these values, and the school reinforces and develops them in a broader framework. Each family offers a unique model of education according to its particularities, which the child spontaneously acquires. In the family environment, the child comes into direct contact with parents and



grandparents, who offer him behavioral models that he will gradually acquire, depending on their level of psychological development. Love, compassion, tolerance, forgiveness and respect are values that are deeply imprinted in the child's personality through harmonious relationships between family members. Self-esteem is very important and must be given a lot of attention, a lot of delicacy and a lot of tact. Positive emotion and optimism must be present in any educational action for good personality development.

C. Discipline and autonomy: School and family are both institutions that encourage the development of responsibility and the discipline necessary in everyday life. The family imposes rules and limits that help form responsible behavior, and the school completes this process by respecting the rules and developing self-discipline. The existence of well-established family rules disciplines him and prepares him for the future. Thus, he will adapt more easily to social life within any group, starting from the playgroup and then to the school group continuing to his future family, and integration into a team will be much easier for him. Free time spent with the family is very important. Educational, entertaining games carefully chosen by the family have an important role in preparing them for society. This way, children learn to respect rules, to resolve conflicts that arise spontaneously, between brothers and sisters, they will be more tolerant, more patient, more insightful and more inventive, thus contributing to the harmonious development of their personality. As humans, we are, by definition, sociable beings meant to live among our fellow human beings and there is a general recognition of the fact that any society is defined by rules that are made to be followed by all its members. For these rules to be followed harmoniously, citizens must have a unifying base, thus represented by education. While the parent guides and encourages the child at home, in order to understand and assimilate the environment and the norms that govern him, the educator at school comes to strengthen, integrate and achieve the cognitive, emotional and psycho-physical goals

D. Respect for authority and responsibility: Both in the family and in school, children learn to respect authority (parents, teachers) and to follow clear rules, which is essential for creating a balanced and productive environment. The family emphasizes individual responsibility and moral education, and the school emphasizes responsibility for educational tasks and compliance with rules. The family encourages, provides unconditional support for the child and directs him in the right direction through advice.



Decisions are made together and then the child feels that he belongs to a social group, has the right to an opinion, is important. This is how he learns that he must assume a decision, be responsible and open to challenges, learns to respect the opinions of others, adapt and be tolerant. The tasks given in the family make him responsible and teach him a healthy lifestyle. The child learns that the balance between play, relaxation, rest, sleep, activities, learning brings benefits to healthy development.

E. Support and encouragement: Family and school both support a child's personal and academic growth: the family offers emotional security, while school fosters intellectual and professional development. Parental involvement begins with choosing the right kindergarten, considering the child's needs, and maintaining regular communication with teachers. Parents also carry a moral responsibility to follow their child's daily progress and to approach the school–family partnership with awareness. Throughout school years, active parental engagement is crucial for building close relationships, honest communication, and support for learning. This means investing in education and offering encouragement without turning it into a duty or source of frustration.

F. Communication and collaboration: An important aspect that unites the school and the family is communication. Collaboration between parents and teachers is essential to ensure a complete and coherent education for the child. In the family, children learn to cooperate with parents and siblings, and at school, these values extend to group activities, teamwork and volunteering. The relationship between family and school must be one based on collaboration and open communication. Parents must be actively involved in their children's education, be present in their school life and collaborate with teachers to ensure a harmonious development of children. Teachers must also be open and communicate with parents to provide the necessary support for children to reach their maximum potential. These two institutions have different but complementary roles in children's education, and collaboration and open communication between them are the key to success in their development.





Conclusions

Both family and school play vital roles in shaping balanced, responsible individuals, with their values deeply connected and mutually reinforcing. Successful school-family collaboration depends on active parental involvement, modeling positive behaviors, and fostering cultural attitudes that support each child's academic success. Families provide essential support, while schools offer structured learning and social opportunities for children to develop critical skills and social awareness.

Open communication and partnership between parents and teachers are crucial for children's harmonious growth. Parents are children's first teachers, instilling foundational values and interpersonal skills, while schools nurture knowledge, critical thinking, and teamwork. Schools must also recognize each child's uniqueness by implementing diverse, interdisciplinary programs that motivate ***and engage students***.

Collaborative educational exchanges broaden perspectives, promote mutual respect and tolerance, and integrate local and global values. Ultimately, this partnership prepares children to embrace universal values while honoring their cultural identity.

Reflection questions

1. *How do family and school values complement each other in shaping a child's character and behavior?*
2. *What are some specific ways families can actively support their children's education beyond academic help?*
3. *How can schools and families work together to address the unique needs and diversity of each child?*
4. *Why is open communication between parents and teachers essential for a child's development?*
5. *How can collaborative educational experiences promote respect for cultural differences and shared human values?*



Chapter IV. From Theory to Practice: Values in Action through PAVE Educational Scenarios

Practical strategies for teaching values provide an essential framework for educators and parents alike to engage students in understanding and applying key moral principles. These strategies go beyond textbook knowledge, encouraging students to actively explore values like honesty, empathy, responsibility, respect, and fairness. Teachers and parents, as primary role models, have the unique opportunity to guide children through discussions, activities, and reflections that build not only academic knowledge but also emotional intelligence and social awareness.

Teachers play a central role in creating a classroom environment where values can be taught and practiced daily. They can implement strategies such as **role-playing**, where students step into different roles to better understand others' experiences, or engage in **group activities** that foster collaboration, respect, and teamwork. **Moral dilemmas** can be presented to challenge students to critically analyze ethical decisions, while **storytelling** and **biographies** offer real-life examples of how values manifest in the world. These strategies encourage students to think critically, reflect on their actions, and engage in respectful conversations.

However, **parents** are equally integral in this process. They provide the foundation for children's early understanding of values and continue to reinforce these lessons at home. Parental involvement helps ensure that the values students learn at school are consistently supported in the home environment. Parents and caregivers can model positive behavior, share **personal stories**, and engage in value-driven conversations to solidify the understanding that moral principles are not just academic concepts but essential aspects of daily life. When parents actively participate in discussions about



value clarification, they help children reflect on their own beliefs and navigate moral dilemmas, reinforcing critical thinking and self-awareness.

In this collaborative model, both teachers and parents support the development of a child's emotional and moral compass. **Value clarification** techniques, such as helping children identify their beliefs and reflect on their actions, can be practiced both at school and at home. This cross-institutional support encourages children to internalize their values, making them more purposeful and socially aware individuals.

By aligning strategies at school and home, **teachers and parents together** can foster an environment where children are empowered to make ethical decisions, engage respectfully with others, and cultivate empathy. This partnership strengthens students' capacity for **self-regulation, emotional intelligence, and effective communication**, equipping them to become more thoughtful, compassionate, and resilient individuals.

Through these integrated efforts, practical strategies for teaching values not only enhance academic performance but also prepare students to face the challenges of life with a strong moral foundation. Together, teachers and parents create a unified approach to values education that nurtures the next generation of responsible, ethical, and engaged citizens, ready to make a positive impact on the world around them.

4.1. General strategies for teaching values education

A. Silent sitting

Silent sitting is a technique that allows children to sit quietly, fostering inner peace, concentration, and self-awareness. It helps students tune out distractions and cultivate mindfulness. This practice not only reduces classroom stress and restlessness but also improves discipline, creativity, and cognitive skills. Silent sitting has been shown to enhance both language and artistic abilities by promoting deeper concentration.

Examples of silent sitting exercises:

1. **Listening to different sounds** – Students sit quietly and focus on various sounds



in their environment, such as birds chirping, wind blowing, or a ticking clock, enhancing auditory awareness and mindfulness.

2. **Guided visualization** – The teacher leads students through a calming mental journey, such as imagining a peaceful beach or a quiet forest, fostering relaxation and creative thinking.
3. **Tensing and relaxing muscles** – Students systematically tense and relax different muscle groups, helping them release tension and become more aware of their physical state.

B. Parables, proverbs, quotations, and poems

Parables, proverbs, quotations, and poems serve as powerful tools for teaching values by conveying wisdom, moral lessons, and emotional expression. Each form provides insights that help students develop a deeper understanding of life's principles:

- **Parables** – Short stories with human characters that teach moral or ethical lessons (e.g., “The Good Samaritan” emphasizes kindness and compassion).
- **Proverbs** – Wise sayings that offer life advice (e.g., “Honesty is the best policy” encourages truthfulness in all situations).
- **Quotations** – Thoughtful statements from historical figures, writers, or leaders that inspire and provide guidance (e.g., Nelson Mandela’s “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”).
- **Poems** – Express emotions, morals, or values through rhythmic storytelling (e.g., “If” by Rudyard Kipling teaches resilience and self-control).

C. Visual experiences

Visual experiences enhance learning by incorporating **sight-based interactions** that leave a lasting impact on students. These experiences make abstract concepts more tangible, allowing students to connect deeply with the values being taught.



Examples of visual learning strategies:

1. **Illustrations & storyboards** – Students create drawings or comics summarizing a value-based story or lesson.
2. **PowerPoint & video presentations** – Using multimedia tools to visually represent moral dilemmas, inspiring figures, or historical examples of values in action.
3. **Field trips & sight visits** – Visiting historical sites, museums, or cultural landmarks to gain firsthand experiences that reinforce values like patriotism, responsibility, and respect.
4. **Visual note-taking** – Encouraging students to summarize lessons through mind maps, sketches, or graphic organizers to help them retain and understand moral concepts.

By integrating visual experiences into values education, teachers create **engaging, interactive, and lasting learning experiences** that reinforce key ethical lessons.

D. Role plays

Role-playing is an interactive teaching method that allows students to act out real-life scenarios, helping them **develop empathy, communication skills, and moral reasoning**.

Examples of role-playing activities:

- **Conflict resolution scenarios** – Students act out ethical dilemmas (e.g., a disagreement between friends) and propose solutions.
- **Historical reenactments** – Role-playing historical figures who demonstrated moral leadership.
- **Everyday situations** – Acting out situations like helping a lost child, returning a lost wallet, or standing up against bullying.



E. Biographies

Biographies are valuable teaching tools that showcase real-life examples of people who demonstrated **strong moral character, perseverance, and integrity**.

Examples of biographies for values education:

- **Mahatma Gandhi** – Teaches nonviolence, truth, and perseverance.
- **Nelson Mandela** – Inspires resilience, justice, and forgiveness.
- **Malala Yousafzai** – Encourages courage, education, and equality.
- **Mother Teresa** – Demonstrates compassion, kindness, and selflessness.

F. Moral dilemmas

Moral dilemmas are situations in which individuals (the "moral agents") face conflicting choices, none of which resolve the situation in a morally acceptable manner. Teaching students about moral dilemmas helps them **develop critical thinking skills, empathy**, and the ability to make ethical decisions. These dilemmas challenge individuals to make difficult choices, often with no clear "right" answer.

Four types of moral dilemmas:

1. Epistemic moral dilemmas

- **Description:** The moral agent faces conflicting moral requirements, but they struggle to determine which requirement takes precedence.
- **Example:** A student may face a situation where they must choose between telling the truth about a friend's mistake (loyalty) or helping the friend avoid punishment (honesty).

2. Ontological moral dilemmas

- **Description:** Two or more conflicting moral requirements exist, but neither requirement overrides the other. This results in a situation where



the moral agent can hardly choose between them.

- **Example:** A person may feel the moral obligation to care for their aging parent but also need to focus on their own career, leaving them torn between family obligations and personal ambitions.

3. Self-Imposed moral dilemma

- **Description:** This type of dilemma arises due to the moral agent's own wrongdoings, which create a conflict that must be resolved.
- **Example:** A person who has lied to a close friend faces the dilemma of confessing the truth, which might hurt the friend, or keeping the lie to preserve peace.

4. World-Imposed moral dilemma

- **Description:** External circumstances or events impose a moral dilemma on the individual, creating a conflict where they must choose between competing ethical obligations.
- **Example:** A teacher is placed in a situation where they must decide whether to report a student for cheating, which could impact the student's future, or to overlook it to avoid conflict.

G. Essays, articles, classics and news paper

Essays is an organized piece of writing that focuses on a single topic. Further, writing essays is one of the activities given by the educators to their students to enhance their critical thinking skills, comprehension, and of course to widen their vocabulary . Meanwhile, **articles** as a written composition on a specific topic forming an independent part of a book or other publication as a **newspaper** or magazine may also benefit the learners to be informed and be entertained on one's behavior and to educate his/her self.



H. Anecdotes

An **anecdote** is a short story or tale which can talk about any subject the speaker or author wishes to deliver. The qualities of an anecdote are based on the events and people and is normally used as a way of entertaining the readers or listener and making them laugh. Basically, it's a short story about something that happened to you, and/or to someone you know or know of. If you and your friend are chatting about a person and you remember something they did, then as you tell the story as part of the conversation, you have used an anecdote. Anecdotes are used to give a personal perspective, illustrate a point, make people think about something or make them laugh. One of the places where you might find anecdotes writing useful is when writing a college application essay. Perhaps, something that happened in your life inspired you to study in a certain direction and you'd like to share the story to show why you are highly motivated to do well.

I. Group singing

Group singing is a valuable strategy in teaching values education, as it fosters cooperation, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. According to Wheeler (2014), group singing is a primary form of early human musical activity, which makes it an excellent tool for students' overall development.

Application in the classroom:

- **Ice breakers** – Group singing can be used as a fun, engaging way to start a lesson, helping students warm up and bond before diving into academic work.
- **Values education** – Songs with themes of kindness, respect, and unity can help reinforce moral lessons in an enjoyable, memorable way.

J. Group activities

Group activities are essential for fostering collaboration, teamwork, and mutual respect among students. They provide opportunities for students to develop a sense of solidarity and shared responsibility, helping them understand the value of working



together towards a common goal.

Examples of group activities:

- **Problem-solving tasks** – Students work together to solve ethical dilemmas or complete challenges that require cooperation and critical thinking.
- **Group discussions and debates** – Students engage in discussions on moral issues, with each member contributing their perspective.
- **Collaborative projects** – Students collaborate on creating a poster, presentation, or performance that showcases the values learned in class, such as teamwork, kindness, or responsibility.

K. Questioning

Effective questioning is a powerful tool for encouraging deeper thinking, engaging students in discussion, and promoting self-reflection. When used thoughtfully, questioning can guide students to explore values, principles, and ideas in a more meaningful way.

Types of questions:

1. Closed questions

- **Definition:** Closed questions prompt a simple, direct answer, usually "yes" or "no," or a short factual response.
- **Example:** "Did you help your classmates today?"

2. Open questions

- **Definition:** Open questions require more thoughtful, elaborate responses. They ask students to reflect, explain, or express opinions and feelings.
- **Example:** "How can helping others improve the community?"



L. Discussion

Effective discussions are an essential strategy in teaching values education, as they allow students to engage with complex moral and ethical topics in a structured yet open manner. Discussions can help students develop critical thinking, refine their communication skills, and deepen their understanding of core values.

Planning a discussion:

Before starting a discussion, it's crucial to define the objective clearly. The goal of the discussion will shape the type of questions asked, the structure of the conversation, and the activities involved.

Steps for planning a discussion:

1. Define the objective

- What do you want the students to gain from the discussion?
- Should they analyze a text, solve a problem, or reflect on a moral dilemma?
- For example: "I want students to explore how different values can be applied in real-world scenarios."

2. Select the best discussion format

3. Discussions can take various forms, depending on the objective:

- **Small group discussions:** Allow students to collaborate and explore a topic more deeply in smaller groups.
- **Role-playing:** Students can act out scenarios to practice empathy, conflict resolution, or decision-making in real-life situations.
- **Debates:** Students can argue for or against a particular value or position, helping them develop critical thinking and argumentative skills.
- **Reflection writing:** Students write and share their thoughts on a topic



before discussing it with the class.

3. **Encourage participation**

Ask open-ended questions that prompt students to reflect on their own experiences and opinions. This promotes a deeper level of engagement and ensures that all students can contribute to the conversation.

4. **Wrap-Up and Summary**

After the discussion, it's essential to summarize key takeaways and insights. This helps solidify learning and allows students to reflect on the discussion as a whole. You can ask students to summarize the discussion themselves, which helps reinforce their understanding.

M. Value clarification

Value clarification is a technique used to help individuals better understand their own values, particularly in relation to moral dilemmas or decisions that they may face in life. This method encourages self-reflection and personal growth, fostering the development of clear, well-defined values. It provides an opportunity for students to analyze their values and how these beliefs influence their actions and decision-making processes.

Examples of value clarification activities:

1. **Value continuum:**

- Have students line up on a "continuum" from one end of the room to the other based on their opinions about a specific value. For example, you might ask them to position themselves according to how much they value honesty versus kindness in a given scenario. Afterward, have a class discussion about the different positions and reasons behind them.



2. Value cards:

- Prepare a set of cards, each with a different value (e.g., honesty, loyalty, kindness, respect, fairness). Ask students to sort the cards according to their personal priorities. Then, have students share and discuss their reasoning behind the order they placed the cards in.

3. Case studies:

- Present students with ethical dilemmas or real-life scenarios that require moral decision-making. Encourage students to analyze the situation, weigh possible outcomes, and discuss which values should guide their decisions.

4. Group reflection:

- After discussing a moral topic, ask students to write a brief reflection on how the conversation has influenced their understanding of a specific value. In groups, they can share their reflections and offer feedback to one another.

VISUAL SUMMARY

Strategies for Teaching Values Education

A. Silent Sitting



- Mindfulness & Calm
- Listen to Surrounding Sounds
- Guided Visualisation
e.g. beach, forest)

D. Role Plays



- Conflict Resolution
- Historical Reenactments
- Everyday Situations
(lost child, bullying, etc.)

E. Biographies



- Gandhi → Nonviolence & Truth
- Mandela → Justice & Forgiveness
- Malala → Courage & Education

G. Essays, Articles & Newspapers



- Personal Essays → Self-reflection
- Articles → Real-world examples
- Classics → Timeless wisdom

H. Anecdotes



- Short, true stories
- Often entertaining or meaningful
Make abstract values relatable

B. Parables, Proverbs, Quotes, Poems



- Parables → Moral Stories (Good Samaritan)
- Proverbs → Life Lessons ('Honesty is the best policy')
- Quotes → Inspirational Wisdom (Mandela| Gandhi)
- Poems → Emotional & Moral Themes ('If' by Kipling)

F. Moral Dilemmas



- Epistemic – Can't decide which value to prioritize
- Ontological – Equally strong conflicting duties
- Self-Imposed – Own past actions create dilemma
- World-Imposed – External forces create conflict

I. Group Singing



- Ice Breakers
- Songs with moral themes (kindness, unity)
- Fosters teamwork & emotional connection

K. Questioning



- Closed → Yes/No or factual
- Open → Reflective & thought-provoking
- Exemplar "How does honesty build trust?"

M. Value Clarification



- Value Continuum – Physically show your stance
- Value Cards – Rank personal priorities



Reflection questions

1. *How do various strategies (e.g., silent sitting, role play, moral dilemmas) collectively support the development of learners' moral reasoning, empathy, and critical thinking?*
Consider the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral dimensions of values education in your response.
2. *In what ways can you adapt these strategies to accommodate diverse learner profiles (e.g., age, culture, background, learning needs) while maintaining the integrity of the values being taught?*
Reflect on inclusion, accessibility, and relevance.
3. *What are the challenges and ethical considerations involved in using real-life scenarios, biographies, and anecdotal storytelling to teach sensitive or potentially controversial values?*
Discuss issues such as bias, representation, and emotional safety.
4. *Reflect on your own core values as an educator. How do these influence the strategies you choose, the materials you select, and the way you facilitate discussions around moral and ethical issues?*
Consider the alignment (or tension) between personal and professional values.
5. *How can you integrate values education into subject-specific curricula (e.g., science, literature, history) without making it feel artificial or disconnected?*
Reflect on interdisciplinary teaching, authenticity, and curricular relevance.
6. *What role should teacher modeling and personal behavior play in delivering values education, and how can educators remain self-aware and reflective in this process?* Consider the implicit vs. explicit transmission of values.
7. *How can values clarification techniques help learners confront internal conflicts, challenge assumptions, and take ownership of their moral decisions?*
Explore the balance between guided discovery and autonomy in ethical development.



4.2. Practical strategies for teachers to instilling educational values

Practical strategies for teaching values provide a structured approach to helping students reflect on and internalize ethical principles such as respect, responsibility, honesty, empathy, and fairness. These strategies engage students in a variety of activities and discussions that encourage critical thinking, self-reflection, and an understanding of different perspectives. Through methods such as role-playing, group discussions, value clarification, storytelling, and moral dilemma exercises, students are given opportunities to explore and shape their personal values in a supportive and interactive environment.

The importance of these strategies lies in their ability to create an educational atmosphere where students not only excel academically but also grow as responsible, ethical, and socially aware individuals. By incorporating these practical strategies into daily teaching practices, educators can help students build essential life skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, communication, and emotional regulation, all of which are key to their success both inside and outside the classroom.

This approach to values education empowers students to think critically about their beliefs, make informed decisions, and understand the impact of their actions on others. In this way, practical strategies for teaching values lay the foundation for developing compassionate, ethical, and engaged citizens of the future.

Before delving into the practical strategies, it's essential to understand that teaching values is not just about imparting knowledge; it's about shaping character, fostering empathy, and encouraging responsible behavior. Values education helps students navigate life's moral challenges and develop the emotional intelligence. To effectively teach values, it is crucial to incorporate strategies that engage students in reflection, critical thinking, and active practice. These strategies, when applied both in the classroom and at home, provide students with the tools to internalize important moral principles and carry them throughout their lives. The strategies create a dynamic and interactive learning environment that fosters both intellectual and emotional growth, supporting students in their journey to becoming responsible, compassionate individuals.



Create a values-based classroom culture

Creating a values-based classroom culture is essential for fostering an environment where students feel respected, supported, and encouraged to develop strong moral character. This approach not only enhances students' academic success but also promotes their emotional and social growth. By establishing a classroom where core values such as kindness, responsibility, and integrity are prioritized, teachers create a foundation that helps students understand the importance of these values in their personal and academic lives. The following strategies provide practical ways to build and sustain a values-based classroom culture that empowers students to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

- Establish clear expectations rooted in core values like honesty, respect, and perseverance.
- Consistently model these values through your actions, language, and decision-making.
- Foster an inclusive and respectful environment where every student feels valued and heard.

More concrete: Tips & Tricks

A classroom culture rooted in values sets the foundation for learning and personal growth. To achieve this:

- **Define core values together**
 - At the beginning of the school year, co-create a list of classroom values with students (e.g., honesty, kindness, respect, perseverance).
 - Discuss what each value means in practice and set clear expectations for behavior.
- **Model values in your daily interactions**
 - Demonstrate honesty, patience, and respect in your interactions with students and colleagues.



- Admit mistakes when necessary to show integrity and accountability.
- Show enthusiasm for learning to inspire curiosity and a growth mindset.
- **Encourage a safe and inclusive environment**
 - Celebrate diversity by acknowledging different perspectives, cultures, and backgrounds.
 - Ensure every student feels heard and respected, fostering a sense of belonging.
 - Address conflicts with a values-based approach, emphasizing empathy, responsibility, and resolution.

Use storytelling and real-world examples

Storytelling and real-world examples are powerful tools for teaching values, as they bring abstract concepts to life in a way that resonates with students on a personal level. By sharing stories—whether from history, literature, or everyday life—teachers can illustrate the real-world applications of values such as empathy, honesty, and perseverance. These narratives not only engage students but also allow them to relate the lessons to their own experiences, fostering a deeper understanding and internalization of moral principles. The following strategies highlight how storytelling and real-world examples can be used effectively to teach important values and inspire students to live them out in their own lives.

- Share meaningful stories—both historical and contemporary—that illustrate values such as integrity, resilience, and fairness.
- Use case studies, biographies, and personal experiences to demonstrate the real-life impact of strong values.
- Encourage students to share their own experiences and reflections related to values.



More concrete: Tips & Tricks

Storytelling is a powerful tool for teaching values because it allows students to connect emotionally and reflect on real-life situations.

- **Incorporate literature and history**
 - Use fables, folk tales, and historical stories that highlight moral lessons.
 - Discuss how historical figures demonstrated values such as perseverance (e.g., Nelson Mandela's resilience, Malala Yousafzai's courage).
- **Encourage personal storytelling**
 - Ask students to share moments when they had to make ethical choices.
 - Have students interview family members about values they've learned over time.
- **Use case studies and role models**
 - Present real-life case studies involving ethical dilemmas, encouraging students to analyze choices and consequences.
 - Introduce students to role models from different fields (scientists, artists, activists) who embody strong values.
- **Relate stories to everyday life**
 - After sharing a story, discuss how its lesson applies to classroom interactions, friendships, and decision-making.

Engage students in critical discussions

Engaging students in critical discussions is an essential strategy for encouraging them to think deeply about values and how they apply to real-life situations. These discussions provide a platform for students to explore different perspectives, question assumptions, and reflect on their own beliefs and behaviors. By fostering a classroom environment where open, respectful dialogue is encouraged, students develop their critical thinking skills and gain a more nuanced understanding of complex moral issues.



The following strategies illustrate how to effectively engage students in meaningful discussions that challenge them to consider their values and how they relate to the world around them.

- Integrate discussions on ethical dilemmas, current events, and moral challenges to help students analyze different perspectives.
- Use Socratic questioning to guide students in evaluating their beliefs and values.
- Encourage respectful debates where students can express their thoughts while practicing empathy and open-mindedness.

More concrete: Tips & Tricks

Encouraging students to think deeply about values helps them develop moral reasoning and independent thought.

- **Facilitate ethical debates**
 - Present students with real-life scenarios (e.g., "What would you do if you saw someone cheating on a test?") and let them debate possible responses.
 - Encourage students to see multiple perspectives and practice empathy.
- **Use socratic questioning**
 - Instead of providing answers, ask open-ended questions like:
 - "Why do you think honesty is important?"
 - "Can kindness ever be a weakness?"
 - "What would happen if everyone in society only thought about themselves?"
- **Discuss current events through a values lens**
 - Analyze news articles or social issues through the lens of values like justice, fairness, and responsibility.
 - Encourage students to reflect on how these issues affect their communities.



- **Encourage reflection**
 - Have students keep a journal where they reflect on values-based dilemmas they've encountered.
 - Use reflective prompts like:
 - “Describe a time when you stood up for what was right.”
 - “What values do you think are most important for a leader?”

Implement value-based learning activities

Implementing value-based learning activities is a dynamic way to integrate core values into students' everyday experiences and make these values tangible. By incorporating activities that require students to actively participate and reflect on values such as cooperation, responsibility, and respect, educators can foster a deeper connection to these principles. These hands-on activities not only enhance students' understanding of abstract concepts but also provide opportunities for them to practice and internalize values in meaningful ways. The following strategies highlight effective value-based learning activities that can inspire students to embrace and live out important values in their daily lives.

- Design collaborative projects that require teamwork, responsibility, and problem-solving.
- Assign role-playing exercises where students must navigate ethical choices.
- Incorporate service-learning opportunities, such as community projects, to reinforce values like compassion and social responsibility.

More concrete: Tips & Tricks

Engaging students in activities that reinforce values helps them internalize these lessons.

- **Collaborative projects**
 - Assign group projects that require teamwork, patience, and shared



responsibility.

- Rotate leadership roles to teach fairness and cooperation.
- **Service-learning opportunities**
 - Organize class service projects such as visiting elderly homes, organizing recycling campaigns, or writing letters to hospital patients.
 - Encourage students to reflect on how their actions make a difference.
- **Role-playing and simulations**
 - Use role-playing exercises where students must navigate ethical choices (e.g., being a mediator in a conflict).
 - Simulate historical or real-life scenarios where they must make decisions based on values.
- **Character education games**
 - Use activities like “Values Charades” (acting out values) or “Moral Dilemma Cards” (choosing what to do in difficult situations).
 - Encourage students to create their own ethical dilemmas and discuss possible solutions.

Reinforce positive behavior through encouragement

Reinforcing positive behavior through encouragement is a powerful strategy for promoting the consistent practice of values in the classroom. By recognizing and praising students when they demonstrate values such as kindness, responsibility, and respect, teachers help to reinforce these behaviors and motivate students to continue embodying them. Encouragement not only boosts students' self-esteem but also creates a positive and supportive classroom environment where values are celebrated and upheld. The following strategies outline how educators can effectively use encouragement to reinforce positive behavior and create a culture of respect and integrity within the classroom.

- Acknowledge and praise students when they demonstrate core values in their



interactions and work.

- Provide constructive feedback that connects their actions to broader values, helping them see the bigger picture.
- Use intrinsic motivation techniques, such as helping students reflect on how their values shape their identity and future goals.

More concrete: Tips & Tricks

Recognizing and reinforcing values-based actions strengthens students' commitment to ethical behavior.

- **Use specific praise**
 - Instead of general compliments, give targeted praise: "I noticed how you helped your classmate when they were struggling with the assignment. That shows great kindness and teamwork!"
- **Create a classroom reward system focused on values**
 - Instead of rewarding just academic performance, recognize students for demonstrating values.
 - Implement "Values Badges" where students earn badges for acts of integrity, kindness, perseverance, and respect.
- **Encourage peer recognition**
 - Allow students to nominate their classmates for values-based achievements.
 - Have a "Values Spotlight" bulletin board highlighting positive behaviors.
- **Provide constructive feedback**
 - When addressing misbehavior, connect feedback to values: Instead of saying, "Don't interrupt," say, "It's important to listen to others because respect is a key value in our classroom."



Be a role model and mentor

Being a role model and mentor is one of the most influential strategies for teaching values, as students often learn best through observation and imitation. When teachers embody the values they wish to instill—such as honesty, empathy, and perseverance—they provide a living example for students to follow. This not only reinforces the importance of these values but also helps students see how they can apply them in their own lives. The following strategies focus on how teachers can lead by example, becoming mentors who inspire students through their actions, words, and the relationships they build in the classroom.

- Demonstrate integrity, kindness, and a love for learning in your daily interactions.
- Build strong relationships with students, showing them that values are not just abstract concepts but essential qualities for success.
- Encourage self-reflection, helping students develop their own moral compass rather than simply following rules.

More concrete: Tips & Tricks

Students learn more from observing teachers than from being told what to do. Teachers should actively demonstrate the values they wish to instill.

- **Model integrity and fairness**
 - Keep your promises and admit when you're wrong.
 - Treat all students with fairness and avoid favoritism.
- **Demonstrate a growth mindset**
 - Show resilience in the face of challenges, teaching students that mistakes are part of learning.
 - Share stories of times you overcame obstacles through perseverance and hard work.



- **Encourage self-reflection and personal growth**
 - Guide students in setting personal goals related to values.
 - Ask students to evaluate their own behavior and how it aligns with their values.
- **Build meaningful relationships**
 - Show students you care about them beyond academics.
 - Offer mentorship and guidance when they face personal or ethical dilemmas.

By focusing on these steps, students don't just learn values in theory, but practice them in meaningful ways in school and life. Teaching values isn't about fixed rules—it's about helping students think critically, build a moral compass, and make ethical choices. When values are instilled into daily teaching and activities, educators nurture responsible, compassionate individuals who contribute positively to society.

In conclusion, by integrating these strategies into both classroom and home environments, teachers and parents work together to create a strong foundation for moral growth. These methods encourage critical thinking, empathy, and reflection, helping students internalize important values that will guide their decisions and actions throughout life. As we continue to foster these values in our students, we are not only preparing them for academic success but also for a future where they can contribute meaningfully to society and lead with integrity.



TIPS & TRICKS

for Values-Based Teaching



BUILD A VALUES-DRIVEN CLASSROOM

- Co-create a class values list
- Define meanings and model empathy
- Own and learn from mistakes
- Use conflicts as teaching moments



TEACH THROUGH STORIES & REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES

- Use fables, history, and case studies
- Highlight inspiring figures like Mandela
- Invite students to share experiences
- Relate stories to daily life



FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING & REFLECTION

- Present real-world dilemmas
- Ask open-ended questions
- Analyze current events using values
- Promote journaling and discussion



DESIGN VALUES-BASED ACTIVITIES

- Group work and service projects
- Use “Values Badges” for recognition
- Create a “Spotlight Board” for peers
- Give value-centered feedback



4.3. Practical strategies for parents to educate through values

In a child's development, the family plays a foundational role—not only in meeting emotional and physical needs, but also in cultivating a strong internal compass. Long before values such as respect, fairness, empathy, and responsibility are formally discussed at school, they are experienced in daily life at home. Children absorb values by observing how their parents respond to challenges, treat others, manage emotions, and speak about the world around them.

Parents are, in essence, a child's first and most enduring educators. The **emotional climate at home**—how conflicts are resolved, how kindness is shown, how mistakes are handled—has a lasting impact on a child's understanding of right and wrong. Values education in the family is not about perfection, but about consistency, presence, and authenticity.

This section offers practical, research-informed strategies to support parents in nurturing values at home. These approaches go beyond instruction and involve:

- **Modeling behavior** that aligns with the values you hope to pass on;
- **Creating space for conversation and reflection**, even in ordinary moments;
- **Encouraging emotional expression and moral reasoning**, to help children understand not just what is right, but why it matters;
- **Celebrating everyday actions** that reflect values, reinforcing them through meaningful praise.

Just as schools aim to create a values-based culture in the classroom, families are encouraged to do the same at home. When these environments are aligned, children receive a **clear, coherent message** about what it means to be a responsible, caring, and ethical person. Moreover, the impact of this approach goes beyond the individual child. A values-based upbringing helps shape the way children interact with siblings, peers, and eventually their communities. In this way, parents not only support their child's personal development but also contribute to the formation of a more respectful, inclusive, and



compassionate society.

Together, educators and parents can form a **powerful partnership**—one that helps children grow with confidence, character, and a deep understanding of their place in the world.

Strategies to model values at home

“Children learn more from what you are than what you teach.” – W.E.B. Du Bois

One of the most powerful ways children learn values is by observing how their parents behave in everyday life. As Daniel J. Siegel highlights, the developing brain is shaped through *relational experiences*—meaning that how parents respond to challenges, handle emotions, and treat others becomes deeply imprinted in their children's emotional and moral development.

Modeling values at home means more than telling children what is right; it means **living those values consistently**. When parents demonstrate honesty in difficult situations, show empathy in conflicts, or practice respect in disagreements, they offer their children a living example of what these values look like in action. According to Faber and Mazlish, “what parents do matters far more than what they say,” especially when it comes to building trust and moral understanding.

More concrete: Tips & Tricks

Here are some practical strategies to help parents intentionally **model values such as kindness, responsibility, and integrity** through their behavior:

- Reflect on their own responses and emotional habits,
- Make values visible by “naming” them during real-life moments,
- Show vulnerability and accountability (e.g., apologizing when wrong),
- And create a consistent home atmosphere where values are practiced, not preached.
- Several of the *General Strategies for Teaching Values Education*—originally



designed for educators—can be easily adapted to the home environment to support parental modeling. For instance:

- Using parables, quotations, and poems can be shared during story time or reflected on during meals.
- Engage in role-playing can be used at home to explore how to respond to conflicts with peers or siblings.
- Moral dilemmas and value clarification exercises can become part of casual conversations, helping children reflect on their beliefs and behavior.
- Silent sitting and guided visualization can be practiced as calming rituals before bed.

As Alfie Kohn notes, the goal is not blind obedience but the nurturing of a child who **understands the “why” behind ethical actions**. When parents model values authentically—without conditions or performance pressure—they provide children with the most important tool for becoming morally grounded adults: **a coherent life compass**.

Praise values-based behavior

“Praise the effort, not just the outcome—and link it to a value.” – Carol Dweck

Recognizing a child’s positive actions is more than encouragement—it’s a way of reinforcing identity. When praise is linked to specific values, children not only feel seen, but begin to understand the meaning behind their choices. Rather than general approval (“Good job”), targeted praise (“You were really patient while your brother was upset—that shows empathy”) helps children internalize the connection between behavior and values.

More concrete: Tips & Tricks

Building on the ideas of *growth mindset* (Dweck), *moral identity development*



(Kohn), and *emotionally intelligent parenting* (Siegel), parents should focus on:

- Acknowledging process over perfection,
- Highlighting values such as honesty, cooperation, kindness, or perseverance,
- Encouraging children to recognize and celebrate values in themselves and others.
- Using family rituals (e.g., “kindness jars,” weekly value spotlights) to reinforce what matters most.
- Use the following general strategies for values education
 - **Using anecdotes** - short, real-life stories to highlight and reinforce values your child has demonstrated.
 - **Using quotes, proverbs, and poems** - share inspiring quotes or family-favorite sayings that affirm the values your child displays. This helps children link their actions to universal messages.
 - **Use family reflection**- Set aside a moment during the week where everyone reflects on one kind act they saw or did.
 - **Bringing visual experiences** - Create a “Values in Action” board, where the child can post drawings, photos, or short notes describing times when they or others showed honesty, empathy, or respect.
 - **Have family activities** - Work together on small family projects (e.g., helping a neighbor, organizing toys for donation) and use the experience to praise teamwork, generosity, or perseverance. The shared context makes the praise more meaningful and memorable.
 - **Use questioning** - After praising a values-based behavior, follow up with a gentle question that deepens reflection: “How did it feel to ...?” or “What made you choose to... even though it was hard?”

Faber and Mazlish also remind us that meaningful praise can be a powerful mirror: it reflects back to children a sense of who they are becoming. When values-based behavior is consistently noticed and named, children begin to see themselves *as kind, as fair, as responsible*—not just as someone who occasionally acts that way.



Regular family conversations about values

Values are best learned through conversation—not just instruction. Children develop a deeper understanding of values like empathy, fairness, and responsibility when these ideas are discussed naturally and meaningfully. The most powerful moments often don't come from planned lessons, but from everyday interactions—during dinner, on the way to school, or at bedtime. The questions we ask in these moments reflect the values we live by as a family.

When families regularly discuss what matters, they send a powerful message: **values are not abstract ideals, but guiding principles for how we live, relate, and grow.** These conversations help children develop clarity about their own beliefs, learn to see different perspectives, and feel supported in making sense of the world around them.

More concrete: Tips & Tricks

Drawing on Daniel J. Siegel's concept of "mindsight" and Faber & Mazlish's techniques for emotionally attuned communication, parents should:

- Invite children to reflect on their day through value-oriented prompts (e.g., "What was something brave you did today?"),
- Listen with empathy and without judgment, so children feel safe to express their thoughts and dilemmas,
- Model vulnerability by sharing your own challenges, mistakes, and lessons learned,
- Establish a family rhythm that prioritizes dialogue over instruction.
- Use the following general strategies for values education:
 - **Anecdotes:** Share short, real-life stories that reflect values like kindness, honesty, or courage to make abstract ideas personal and relatable.
 - **Proverbs/Quotes:** Use simple sayings or inspiring quotes as conversation starters (e.g., "What does 'treat others how you want to be treated' mean to you?").



- **Open-ended questions:** Ask prompts like “What made you feel proud today?” or “What was the hardest choice you made today?” to encourage reflection.
- **Discussion:** Turn daily moments, like dinner or car rides, into relaxed conversations about what matters. Let children share freely without pressure.
- **Value clarification:** Use simple “Would you rather...?” questions or value ranking games to help children identify what they believe in and why.
- **Visual experiences:** Create a family “Values of the Week” board with drawings, notes, or images that reflect moments of empathy, fairness, or teamwork
- **Guided reflection:** Start conversations with a calm moment or quiet pause to help children become more present and emotionally open.

Values cannot simply be transmitted, they must be co-constructed through relationships and experiences. Regular conversations about values offer children the opportunity to think critically, ask questions, and shape their own ethical voice. Over time, these discussions become part of the family’s culture, helping children grow into thoughtful, principled, and compassionate individuals.

Encourage critical thinking

One of the most effective ways to help children understand values is by encouraging them to think about them—openly, critically, and reflectively. Rather than simply telling children what is right or wrong, parents can guide them to explore values through thoughtful dialogue and inquiry. This not only builds moral understanding but also strengthens cognitive and emotional development.

Critical thinking begins with asking the right kind of questions—**open-ended, reflective, and connected to real experiences**. Questions like “How did your actions today show kindness?” or “What can we do to make sure everyone feels included?”



prompt children to pause, consider others' perspectives, and make connections between values and actions.

More concrete: Tips & Tricks

Drawing from Daniel J. Siegel's emphasis on brain integration and Alfie Kohn's advocacy for autonomy and meaning-making, parents should:

Encourages **self-reflection and moral reasoning**;

- Fosters **empathy** by helping children recognize the impact of their choices;
- Builds **independent thought**, rather than blind obedience;
- Creates space for children to express doubts, insights, and emotions.
- Use the following general strategies for values education
 - **Moral dilemmas**: Use everyday “What would you do if...?” scenarios to spark ethical reflection.
 - **Open-ended questions**: Ask “Why do you think that happened?” to build reasoning.
 - **Discussion** : Turn mealtimes into casual value talks—no need for lectures.
 - **Stories & articles**: Read together and ask, “What value was shown here?”
 - **Proverbs/Quotes**: Use short sayings as conversation starters.

Parents are encouraged to turn everyday moments—after school chats, bedtime talks, or moments of conflict—into opportunities for value-based reflection. These conversations teach children not what to think, but *how* to think in alignment with their developing beliefs and emotions. By making questioning a regular practice, parents nurture children who are not only aware of values—but who can also apply them thoughtfully, respectfully, and confidently in a complex world.



TIPS & TRICKS



MODEL VALUES AT HOME

- Reflect on your own responsiveness and emotional habits
- Make values visible by naming them during daily interactions
- Show vulnerability and accountability (e.g., admit when wrong)
- Create a consistent home atmosphere where values are practiced



PRAISE VALUES-BASED BEHAVIOR

- Acknowledge effort over outcomes
- Highlight values in praise (e.g., honesty, kindness, perseverance)
- Encourage recognition of values in others and self
- Use family rituals (e.g., 'kindness jars', weekly spotlights)



HAVE REGULAR FAMILY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT VALUES

- Use daily moments (meals, car rides) to discuss values
- Ask value-oriented prompts (e.g., "What was something brave you did?")
- Listen with empathy and without judgment
- Share your own challenges and learning moments
- Create a rhythm that prioritizes dialogue, not lectures



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING ABOUT VALUES

- Promote self-reflection and moral reasoning
- Help children recognize the impact of their choices
- Build independent thinking (not blind obedience)
- Create safe space for doubts, insights, and emotions



4.4. Challenges and solutions in approaching values in schools and families

Teaching values to children is a dynamic, ongoing process—shaped not only by family life but also by what children observe and experience in school and with peers. While parents and educators often share the goal of raising respectful, empathetic, and responsible individuals, the journey is rarely without challenges. Differences in environments, expectations, and even interpretations of values can cause confusion or inconsistency for the child.

This chapter highlights some of the **most common challenges** encountered in values education across home and school settings and offers practical **solutions** that promote alignment, resilience, and mutual understanding.

CHALLENGE 1: Conflicting values at home and school

Children can become confused or frustrated when the values promoted at school (e.g., independence, competitiveness) appear to clash with those emphasized at home (e.g., obedience, cooperation). These differences can lead to mixed signals and internal tension, especially when expectations are not clearly communicated or reinforced.

Solutions for parents:

✓ *Reflect on family values:*

Take time to identify the top 3–5 values you consistently model and emphasize at home (e.g., honesty, empathy, responsibility). Write them down and talk about them with your children.

✓ *Be aware of what you reinforce:*

Consider what behaviors you praise, ignore, or correct. These daily choices send strong messages about what really matters in your family culture.

✓ *Open a dialogue with teachers:*

Reach out to your child's educators and ask: *"What values do you emphasize in*



class?” Share your family’s values to find alignment and avoid mixed messages.

✓ *Teach flexibility and context:*

Help your child understand that values may look different in various settings. Say: “At home, we value quiet reflection; at school, you’re encouraged to speak up. Both are important.”

Solutions for teachers:

✓ *Share the school’s core values with familie:*

Include value-related goals in newsletters, parent meetings, or school websites so families know what the school stands for.

✓ *Invite parents into the values conversation:*

Ask families about the values they promote at home, especially during beginning-of-year conferences. This helps identify shared ground and anticipate differences early on.

✓ *Acknowledge and respect cultural differences:*

Be aware that families may emphasize different values due to culture, tradition, or religion. Approach these with curiosity and openness, rather than judgment.

✓ *Highlight common ground:*

Even when values differ in emphasis (e.g., autonomy vs. respect), look for shared values that can serve as bridges—such as kindness, safety, or fairness.

✓ *Provide clear explanations of classroom expectations:*

When conflicts arise, explain to parents *why* certain behaviors are encouraged at school and how they support student development.



CHALLENGE 2: Value conflicts between peers

As children grow, their peers become increasingly influential. When a child encounters friends with different or conflicting values—such as those who mock others, lie, or act disrespectfully—it can create internal tension. They may feel pressured to go along with behaviors that contradict what they've been taught at home or school, just to fit in or avoid rejection.

✓ *Talk about peer influence openly:*

Normalize discussions about peer pressure. Say things like: *“Sometimes friends make choices that we may not agree with—what matters is staying true to who you are.”*

✓ *Use role-playing at home:*

Act out common peer dilemmas (e.g., witnessing teasing, being asked to lie). Let your child practice how they could respond with empathy, honesty, or courage.

✓ *Teach respect for differences:*

Help children understand that not everyone shares the same values—and that's okay. Encourage them to listen without judging, and respond with kindness.

✓ *Empower through stories:*

Read or watch age-appropriate stories that include value conflicts between characters. Use these to spark reflection: *“What would you have done?”* or *“Was that fair?”*

✓ *Encourage value-aligned friendships:*

Support your child in building friendships with peers who show kindness, cooperation, and integrity. Positive peer connections strengthen values.

Solutions for teachers:

✓ *Foster a classroom culture of inclusion and respect:*

Establish class rules that celebrate diversity of opinion, promote respectful dialogue, and discourage mockery or exclusion.



✓ *Teach social and emotional skills explicitly*

Use lessons or circle time to explore empathy, fairness, and conflict resolution. Teach language like “*I feel...*”, “*I need...*”, and “*Can we find a solution?*”

✓ *Use real-life peer scenarios:*

Present hypothetical situations where students must choose how to respond to peer pressure or unethical behavior. Discuss possible outcomes and respectful strategies.

✓ *Intervene supportively during conflicts:*

When peer issues arise, guide students to reflect on the values at stake, rather than simply punishing behavior. Ask: “*What value was missing here? How can we do better next time?*”

✓ *Encourage student-led initiatives:*

Create opportunities for students to recognize each other for showing positive values—like a “Values Champion” award or peer nominations.

Tip: Children will encounter value conflicts—it’s inevitable. What matters most is that they are equipped with the emotional vocabulary, confidence, and reflective tools to navigate those moments with integrity and kindness.

CHALLENGE 3: Teaching difficult values

Some values—like honesty, fairness, or accountability—are challenging for children to understand and practice consistently. These values often involve making difficult choices, admitting mistakes, or accepting consequences, which can feel emotionally uncomfortable. Both home and school play an essential role in helping children grasp not just *what* is right, but *why* it matters.



Solutions for parents:

- ✓ *Use real-life examples at home:*

Point out everyday moments to highlight values in action (e.g., “We returned the extra change because honesty matters”).

- ✓ *Be honest about your own mistakes:*

Model accountability by saying things like: “*I lost my temper, and that wasn’t fair. I’m sorry.*” This teaches repair and responsibility.

- ✓ *Break down complex values into age-appropriate steps:*

For example, fairness can start with sharing a toy or taking turns. Praise these early signs of moral growth.

- ✓ *Create a “Value of the Week” routine:*

Choose one value (e.g., honesty) and explore it through stories, conversation, or real-life situations. Ask: “*When was it hard to be honest this week?*”

- ✓ *Praise effort, not just outcomes:*

Reinforce the value behind the action: “*You told the truth even though it was hard—that shows integrity.*”

Solutions for Teachers:

- ✓ *Use moral dilemmas in class discussions:*

Present realistic scenarios where no option is perfect and ask students to reason through them. Discuss consequences and competing values.

- ✓ *Incorporate values into curriculum topics:*

Connect values to literature, history, or science. For example, explore fairness in civil rights movements or honesty in scientific research.

- ✓ *Create opportunities to practice values:*

Assign rotating classroom roles (e.g., fairness monitor, honesty checker) to give



students practice living out values in structured ways.

✓ *Celebrate ethical choices publicly:*

Acknowledge when a student admits a mistake, apologizes, or acts fairly. Highlight the value in front of others: *“That was a very fair solution—thank you.”*

✓ *Give time for reflection:*

Use journaling, exit tickets, or quiet moments to let students think about recent situations where they had to make a tough choice or do the right thing.

CHALLENGES IN TEACHING VALUES



CONFLICTING VALUES AT HOME AND SCHOOL

- Reflect on family values
- Open a dialogue with teachers
- Teach flexibility and context
- Acknowledge cultural differences

PEER VALUE CONFLICTS

- Talk about peer influence openly
- Use role-playing at home
- Empower through stories
- Foster inclusive classroom culture





TEACHING DIFFICULT VALUES

- Model honesty and accountability
- Praise effort tied to values
- Use moral dilemmas in class
- Give time for reflection



KEY INSIGHT: Value conflicts are natural—equip children with the awareness and tools to respond with integrity.



Reflection Questions for Educators & Parents

1. *Where might the values taught in your classroom or home differ from those promoted in other environments? How can you respectfully address these gaps?*
2. *How do you currently support children in managing peer pressure and value conflicts? What strategies might you strengthen or introduce?*
3. *Which values (e.g., honesty, fairness, accountability) do your students struggle with most? Why do you think that is, and how do you respond?*
4. *How do you model the values you expect children to learn? Are there recent situations where your actions reinforced or contradicted those values?*
5. *What methods do you use (or could use) to reflect with children on ethical choices they've faced, and what have you learned from their responses?*

**It is not what
is poured into
a student that
counts, but
what is planted.**

– Linda Conway





4.5. How parents and teachers can unite around values

In shaping a child's character, few forces are as influential as the values modeled and reinforced at home and in school. Yet too often, parents and teachers operate in parallel rather than in partnership—missing valuable opportunities to strengthen each other's efforts. This section explores how collaboration between families and educators can create a consistent, supportive environment where values like respect, empathy, responsibility, and integrity are not just taught but lived. When adults unite around shared principles, children gain the clarity, confidence, and guidance they need to thrive—academically, socially, and morally.

When and how parents and teachers should reach out to each other

When to reach out:

- At the beginning of the year to align on shared values.
- When behavioral or peer issues arise that involve conflicting values.
- After notable value-based successes or challenges (e.g., telling the truth, resolving a conflict).
- When parents notice changes in their child's moral reasoning or social behavior.
- When the child seems confused about differing expectations at school vs. home.

How parents can reach out to teachers

1. **Start the year** with a values conversation

Ask the teacher: *"What values are emphasized in your classroom?"* Share what values you prioritize at home.

2. **Attend parent-teacher conferences** with purpose

Don't just focus on academics—ask how your child behaves socially and morally:



“Are they kind to others? Do they show responsibility?”

3. Share family context

Let teachers know about any important beliefs, customs, or values that guide your parenting. This helps them understand your child better.

4. Communicate regularly, not just in crisis

Send a message when your child shares something positive about school values. Teachers appreciate encouragement, too.

5. Follow up on specific behaviors

If your child faced a moral dilemma or conflict, ask the teacher how it was addressed and how you can support at home.

6. Join school values initiatives

Volunteer for projects, values weeks, or classroom activities that promote empathy, inclusion, and cooperation.

How teachers can reach out to parents

1. Share the classroom values plan early on

In newsletters or welcome meetings, outline which values are practiced and how they're reinforced daily.

2. Invite parents to co-create shared values

Ask families to submit their top 2–3 values. Look for overlaps and highlight them in school activities.

3. Use positive behavior reports

Instead of only reporting issues, share short notes when a child demonstrates kindness, honesty, or responsibility.

4. Explain the “Why” behind rules



If a family questions a policy or discipline, explain how it connects to larger values like fairness or safety.

5. Offer conversation starters for home

Suggest questions like *“What’s one kind thing you saw today?”* or *“When was it hard to be honest?”* in class newsletters or homework folders.

6. Respect cultural and value diversity

Ask parents: *“Are there any family values or traditions we should be aware of to better support your child.”*



Closing Reflections: Nurturing Values, Together

As this guide comes to a close, one truth remains clear: values education is not an extra—it is the essence of meaningful learning. Throughout these pages, we have explored how values such as respect, empathy, honesty, and responsibility shape not only a child’s academic journey, but their identity, relationships, and vision of the world. These values are not taught in isolation—they are modeled, practiced, and lived.

A shared responsibility

Effective values education is not a one-size-fits-all model. It requires collaboration between educators and families, built on mutual respect and cultural sensitivity. Parents bring rich traditions, beliefs, and life experience; schools provide structure, community, and perspective. When aligned, these two environments offer children the clarity and consistency they need to grow into ethical, confident individuals.

Embracing the challenges

Naturally, there are challenges—conflicting expectations, peer influences, and difficult moral choices can all create tension. But these challenges are not barriers; they are opportunities for dialogue, reflection, and growth. This guide has presented tools and strategies—from silent sitting and storytelling to dilemma discussions and value clarification—to help adults navigate these complexities with thoughtfulness and care.

Partnership as a pathway

True values education is only possible when schools and families work as partners. Open communication, shared goals, and a willingness to listen across differences are essential. Children benefit most when the adults in their lives provide a united front, reinforcing shared values like kindness, fairness, and integrity in both settings. This consistency offers security—and invites moral courage.

A note to educators

To all adult educators: know that your influence reaches far beyond your subject



matter. Every word, gesture, and decision communicates what you value. Be patient—growth takes time. Be courageous—you set the standard for ethical behavior. Be curious—learn from your students and their families. And above all, be kind—to others and to yourself. Your everyday actions plant the seeds of lifelong character.

The journey continues

Values education is a shared journey. It demands reflection, communication, and a shared commitment to the kind of world we want to create. When schools and families stand united in purpose, we don't just prepare children for tests—we prepare them for life. Let this guide be a living resource: open to evolution, enriched by practice, and sustained by a collective vision to raise principled, compassionate, and resilient human beings.

CONCLUSION



By embracing empathy, patience, and open communication, educators can create an environment where values are taught consistently and effectively, shaping the character of future generations.





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