



## Kiwanis-family club frequently asked questions

### How does Terrific Kids impact participants?

**It helps kids set goals.** Kids who participate in Terrific Kids set their own goals and work to achieve them. They're active participants, so they're engaged.

**It teaches perseverance.** When confronted with failure, kids who take part in Terrific Kids reflect, adjust and try again. Students learn from failure.

**It connects kids with mentors.** Children who take part in Terrific Kids interact with adults who display good character. They improve study habits and learn lessons about life. Sometimes, mentors even discover opportunities for grants and funding.

**It encourages kids to coach each other.** Kids give back to other kids through peer mentoring. They discover their classmates' strengths and go to each other for help, which builds skills and self-confidence.

**It bully-proofs.** Because participants learn and practice good character and are part of a welcoming, inclusive group within the classroom they engage with kids and adults who are different than they are and recognize when others are being treated unfairly. If they see inappropriate behavior, they're more likely to speak-up.

**It empowers.** Terrific Kids helps members learn important life skills (known as [Developmental Assets](#)) which lead to success in school and life.

### What is the best way to approach the elementary school about sponsoring Terrific Kids?

Many Kiwanis clubs present Terrific Kids information after members volunteer at the school and help with projects. This is a great way to build a relationship with staff—and students—so when club members approach the principal about establishing a Terrific Kids program he or she is more receptive. (*Remember to order the [Kiwanis Kids Introductory Kit](#) to use when presenting the idea.*)

If the school principal says the school district's superintendent needs to approve the program, see if you can schedule a meeting. In all likelihood, the superintendent will see the benefits of Terrific Kids and may even ask the club to make a presentation to all elementary school principals in the district. Make sure your club has the resources and volunteers to do this if the opportunity arises. If you need additional help providing programs to various schools in the district contact Kiwanis, Key Club and Circle K clubs in your area. Any of these Kiwanis-family clubs can sponsor a Bring Up Grades program in a school.

## **Educate Parent-Teacher Organization members about the program**

A key for obtaining support for Terrific Kids is the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) at the school. Make a presentation to win their support.

After the principal and parent-teacher organization have welcomed you, you're ready to start the program. Go online to order the [Terrific Kids program kit](#) or call the Kiwanis International Office toll free at 1-800- 549-2647, ext. 411.

## **How do we approach a business sponsor about supporting the program at the school?**

After you receive a commitment from your club members and the school, it's time to seek a local business sponsor. Use the Kiwanis Kids promotional brochure when speaking with the business sponsor. Explain how students receive recognition for achieving goals. Talk about the recognition party and how you envision the sponsor offering assistance. Provide options for providing support. The business sponsor might want to provide giveaways such as coupons or actual store promotional items that can be used as gifts. The sponsor may choose to provide funding or actual food for the recognition party.

Give the business sponsor an idea of how often students will be recognized and how the club intends to publicize the program.

## **Promoting the business sponsor**

Provide examples of how the business sponsor's name will be promoted. Options Include:

- Ordering personalized bumper stickers with the sponsor's name from Kiwanis International. Every child honored with the Terrific Kids award will give the bumper sticker to his or her parents, who will display the bumper sticker on one of the family cars.
- Display the business sponsor's name on the Terrific Kids bulletin board, in the school's newsletter, on the school's website and in the school's yearbook. Include information in news releases sent to local media.
- Order Terrific Kids T-shirts and have a local T-shirt shop personalize the T-shirts with the business sponsor's name on the back.

School staff may have ideas about businesses they would like to partner with or the PTO may have suggestions.

It's a good idea to research which businesses provide special funding for community service. A quick website search should provide this information. These businesses might be more inclined to provide support.

## **How should we thank business sponsors?**

- Send a special thank-you note to your business sponsor. You might ask the latest group of Terrific Kids recipients to create thank-you cards and send them out.

- When sending news releases to local media about Bring Up Grades, always mention the business sponsor's name. If the news release is published in the newspaper, send a copy of the newspaper article with a thank-you note to the business sponsor.
- Invite the business sponsor to a special school ceremony to say thank you. Present the business sponsor with a gift. You can order fun, affordable gifts from the [Kiwanis Family Store](#).
- Take photos of the event. Photos can be embellished and used as gifts. For example, ask Terrific Kids recipients to sign the photograph or photograph border, put it in a frame and present it to a sponsor as a personalized gift.

### **Educating students about the Terrific Kids program**

It's important to educate participating students about the Terrific Kids program and how everyone has a chance to be recognized. Use the [student's guide to Terrific Kids PowerPoint](#) presentation posted online to explain the concept of establishing and achieving a goal centered around one of the Terrific Kids character traits. The PowerPoint includes a goal selection activity and also explains what happens when students don't achieve goals. There is an information sheet on the Terrific Kids Resource CD that can be printed from a computer, copied and given to students so they can share information with parents.

It's up to each student to establish a realistic, achievable goal in order to be successful. There are also alternative ways to present the program that are discussed in more detail in this information sheet.

### **Do you have suggestions regarding goals students should establish to participate in Terrific kids?**

Goals depend on the behavior the child is interested in changing. It's also important to help the child select a goal centered around one of the Terrific Kids character traits.

Here are goals other students have established. Remember, students compete against themselves, not one another. When establishing goals with students suggest they identify "SMART" goals. SMART is an acronym for: **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**ealistic, and **T**imely.

### **Goal examples and the character traits they reflect:**

- I will raise my hand and quietly wait to be selected. (*Respect*)
- I will put my book back on the proper shelf after the class reading session. (*Responsible*)
- I will return my library books to the school library before the late date. (*Responsible*)
- I will learn my multiplication tables for 1 through 5 by October 1. (*Capable*)
- I will clean my area after the arts and crafts session. (*Responsible*)
- I will talk in class only when being called-on by the teacher. (*Thoughtful, Respect*)
- I will arrive to class on time every day. (*Responsible, Capable*)
- I will bring my books and homework to school every day. (*Responsible, Capable*)
- I will not push my classmates when angry. (*Respect*)
- I will keep my hands to myself and not bother my classmates. (*Respect, Capable*)

### **What are the benefits in starting a Terrific Kids program?**

Students are empowered to achieve because they take part in establishing the goal to improve. This is a motivating experience for young people.

Teachers believe that students participate more frequently and that behavior in class improves. Parents report a positive change regarding willingness to assist with tasks at home.

The program provides an opportunity for teachers to recognize students that may not normally receive recognition.

### **What if a student doesn't achieve his or her goal?**

When a goal is not met, the teacher should sit down and talk with the student about difficulties that prevented success. Then the teacher and student should make a list of what can be done differently during the next goal-setting period to accomplish the original goal. (This is the perfect time to talk about the importance of perseverance.) If the teacher and student find the goal was unrealistic, the goal should be changed. The key is to provide the student with a positive learning experience as a result of failing at a task. Rather than focusing on failing, the student focuses on what he/she can change in order to be successful.

If the teacher finds goal identification to be an issue when working with a specific class the Terrific Kids program can be altered to accomplish the same goal, but students are honored for achieving the goal of learning the Terrific Kids character traits.

### **Terrific Kids with a twist – great for children in kindergarten to 3rd grade**

Create a chart listing the Terrific Kids character traits (Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Inclusive, Friendly, Inquisitive, and Capable) at the top of the chart and list student names to the left of the chart.

Each student is challenged with the goal of learning the Terrific Kids character traits. Students can focus on learning a character trait each month and focus on conducting an activity related to that character trait each week. Examples include reading a book about the character trait one week. Write a story about how someone might demonstrate this character trait the next week, draw a picture depicting how you could demonstrate this character trait at school and at home.

One character trait can be reviewed each month or each week. (Additional resources are offered on the Kiwanis Kids resource CD providing activities a teacher or Kiwanis family club volunteer can use to teach students about the Terrific Kids character traits.)

A star is placed next to each character trait as the student learns about the trait. After stars are next to all the character traits listed next to the student's name, the student is honored as a Terrific Kid.

**Please submit questions and comments about conducting the Terrific Kids program and success stories to [lpyron@kiwanis.org](mailto:lpyron@kiwanis.org).**