



## ***What do we mean by REAL Character Development?***

At its core, REAL is about delivering a Character Development Program that is:

- **Relevant:** Relatable to the needs of today's students, educators, and parents. We focus on family values such as honesty and hard work while also teaching about the real-world challenges that students will face such as stress management, relationship building, and future readiness.
- **Empowering for Educators and Parents:** Our program is based on educational transparency. We want all students, educators and parents to be involved in the learning process. Offering practical, hands-on activities that students can immediately apply in their lives.
- **Actionable Evidence:** Our program is tried and true tested by third-party experts and schools, grounded in research and best practices, ensuring that every strategy, activity, and lesson plan you implement is backed by scientific data and proven effective.
- **Lasting:** REAL Skills Building is not just a one-time intervention but a foundation that students build on over time, supporting their growth throughout their education and beyond.

## ***Why "REAL Character Development = REAL Results" Matters:***

Our slogan highlights that our true, high-quality program, when implemented thoughtfully and consistently, has the power to produce measurable and transformative results. It reinforces your school's commitment to delivering character development programs that make a significant and lasting difference for students and educators alike.

By embracing **REAL**, your school ensures that you provide the tools and strategies necessary to foster growth, ultimately leading to **REAL results**—not just in the classroom but in students' lives.





## ***How Does Storytelling Help Students Learn?***

### **The Power of Stories in Education**

Literature serves as a powerful tool in teaching Character Development because it immerses students in narratives that mirror the complexities of human emotions, relationships, and choices. Stories allow children to explore diverse perspectives and experiences, often different from their own, fostering empathy and social awareness. By stepping into the shoes of a character, students can understand emotions, motivations, and the consequences of actions in a safe and engaging way. This helps them develop emotional vocabulary and recognition, key components of self-awareness and emotional regulation.

### **Connecting Emotional Concepts to Real-Life Scenarios**

Through literature, abstract Character Development concepts such as self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making become tangible and relatable. Characters in stories face challenges and make decisions that resonate with students, providing natural opportunities for reflection and discussion. For example, when a character learns to navigate conflict or express gratitude, students can analyze the choices made and consider how they might handle similar situations. This connection between literature and real life deepens students' understanding of these principles and enhances their ability to apply these skills in their own lives.

### **Promoting Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving**

Reading literature also cultivates critical thinking and problem-solving skills, which are central to Character Development. As students analyze a story's plot, characters, and conflicts, they learn to evaluate different perspectives and consider multiple solutions to problems. Literature invites them to reflect on ethical dilemmas, weigh the consequences of decisions, and practice perspective-taking. These activities align seamlessly with the program objectives, helping students build the cognitive and emotional skills that are based in core values. By integrating literature into the program instruction, educators not only enrich students' academic learning but also empower them to thrive.

### **Emozi®'s Story-Based Approach**

The Emozi® program uniquely integrates literature into character development instruction by using engaging, developmentally appropriate stories featuring beloved characters like Ollie the Owl, Benny the Bear, Harriet the Hare, Betty the Beaver, Sammy the Squirrel, and Buzz the





Bee. In preschool and kindergarten, short, relatable tales introduce young learners to foundational character strength concepts through the adventures of these animal friends. For grades 1 and 2, the same characters continue to guide students through more complex social-emotional challenges, helping them develop skills like sharing, empathy, and problem-solving. By grade 3, Emozi introduces small chapter books featuring Ollie and his friends as they navigate relatable situations that reflect students' growing emotional and social experiences. In grades 4 and 5, the program evolves into a novel-per-grade format, with each lesson tied to a specific chapter. These novels provide deeper engagement and allow students to explore SEL topics like ethical decision-making, conflict resolution, and self-awareness in greater depth. By following Ollie and his friends' journeys, students connect emotionally with the characters, making Character Development concepts more meaningful and impactful.

### ***Our Emozi® Song Book:***

Songs about Character Development are highly effective in helping young learners internalize key concepts and apply them across different environments. Music engages multiple brain areas, making remembering and recalling information easier for children. Catchy melodies and repetitive lyrics create a sense of rhythm and predictability, which helps young learners retain concepts like self-regulation, empathy, or conflict resolution. For example, a song that teaches the steps of the S.T.A.R. strategy (Stop, Think, Act, Reflect) can serve as a mental cue for students to pause and regulate their emotions when faced with challenges, whether they're at home, in the classroom, or on the playground.

Songs also promote active participation and multisensory learning, which enhances understanding and long-term retention. Through singing, clapping, and movement, children reinforce character development skills in fun and natural ways. For instance, a song about expressing gratitude might pair lyrics with simple hand motions, making it easier for students to connect the words with their meaning. These musical interactions are not only engaging but also create positive emotional experiences, which help anchor skills development concepts more deeply in students' minds. By embedding Character Development lessons in music, educators empower young learners to apply these skills consistently, fostering their ability to navigate emotions and relationships in any context.





### ***Program Components:***

Each Emozi® classroom implementation package includes the following materials:

- Teacher Guide
- Activities and Worksheets
- Complementing Song for each lesson
- Sing-along worksheet in full color for selected lessons
- Sing-along worksheet in B&W for selected lessons
- Posters for enhanced implementation



## ***Grade 2 Sample Lesson: Trust and Dependability***

Lesson Objective: Students will learn about trust, dependability, and the importance of knowing who they can count on through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns Who to Count On."

Materials Needed:



- The story "Ollie the Owl Learns Who to Count On"
- Song: Ollie the Owl's a Good Sport.
- Owl, bear, beaver, hare, and bee puppets or stuffed animals
- Coloring sheets for the "Good Sport Medal Craft" Activity
- Crayons, markers
- Parent Home Connection Letter

Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Greeting and Circle Time Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle.
- Briefly discuss what it means to trust someone and how friends and family can help us when we feel lost or sad.
- Introduce the concept of dependability and explain that it's important to know who we can count on.

### **Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script**

#### **1. Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:**

- "Good morning, everyone! Let's all sit in a circle. Today, we're going to talk about something very important—trust and dependability.
- "Can anyone tell me what it means to 'trust' someone?" (Pause for responses.)





- "Yes, trust means you can count on someone to help you or be there for you when you need them. Think of times when you felt sad or maybe needed help. Who helped you feel better?" (Encourage responses and gently guide them to think about family, friends, or teachers.)
- "Today, we'll talk about knowing who we can depend on. Knowing who we can trust can make us feel safe, loved, and happy."

Read the Story (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



- Read the story "Ollie the Owl Learns Who to Count On" aloud to the class.
- Show the pictures and engage the children by asking questions about who helped Ollie and how he felt.
- Emphasize the importance of having dependable friends and family members.

**Story Time Teacher Script:**

**1. Prepare the Children for the Story:**

- "We're going to read a story now about Ollie the Owl. In this story, Ollie feels a little lost and sad, and he learns who he can count on to help him feel better. Let's see who Ollie trusts!" (Read the story aloud, pausing at key moments to ask questions and engage the children.)
  - i. **Key Question 1:** "Ollie asks his friend Benny the Bear for help. How do you think Ollie feels when Benny gives him a hug and says he'll help him?" (Encourage responses.)
  - ii. **Key Question 2:** "When Ollie goes to his mom and dad, they tell him they'll always be there for him. How does that make Ollie feel?" (Pause for responses, emphasizing the safety and comfort Ollie feels.)

**2. Wrap-Up the Story:**

- "Ollie learned that his friends and family are people he can count on. When he feels lost or sad, he knows he has people who will help him."



### Ollie the Owl Learns Who to Count On

In a forest full of trees so tall,  
Lived Ollie the Owl, who was loved by all.  
With feathers so soft and eyes so bright,  
He flew through the woods both day and night.  
But one day, Ollie felt a bit lost,  
His heart was heavy, like a path he'd crossed.  
He needed help but didn't know who,  
So he set off to find out what to do.  
First, he met Benny, the big brown bear,  
With a kind smile and a gentle stare.  
"Benny," asked Ollie, "can you help me out?  
I feel so lost, I'm filled with doubt."  
Benny gave a hug, so warm and tight,  
"Of course, dear Ollie, I'll make it right.  
You can count on me, through thick and thin,  
Together we'll find your joy within."  
Next, he saw Betty, busy and bright,  
Building her dam from morning to night.  
"Betty," said Ollie, "I need a friend,  
Someone to help, on whom I can depend."  
Betty nodded, her tail a-swish,  
"Come, Ollie, share your wish.  
You can count on me, I'm here for you,  
Helping each other, that's what friends do."

Ollie felt better, but still a bit sad,  
So he flew home to see his mom and dad.  
"Mom, Dad," he said, with a tear in his eye,  
"Can you help me, I don't know why."  
His mom hugged him close, his dad did too,  
"Ollie, we're always here for you.  
You can count on us, day or night,  
We'll help you find your way, make things right."  
Then his brothers and sisters gathered near,  
With wings around, they wiped his tears.  
"Ollie, we love you, don't you see?  
You can count on us, your family."  
Ollie felt warmth from friends and kin,  
A sense of love began to spin.  
He knew he could count on them, every one,  
Through any trouble, under the sun.  
Now when Ollie feels lost or small,  
He knows who to call, one and all.  
Benny the Bear, and Betty Beaver too,  
Mom, Dad, and siblings, always true.  
In the forest green, with friends so dear,  
Ollie found out, there's nothing to fear.  
He learned that with love, he's never alone,  
With family and friends, he's always home.



Play the Song (10 minutes)

Song Time Outline:

- Teach the children the “Ollie the Owl Learns Who to Count On” song
- Use the song's dance to represent actions of trust and helping each other.
- Sing the song together a few times, encouraging the children to join in with the actions.

### Introduce the Song Teacher Script:



1. "Now, let's sing a song about Ollie the Owl and his friends! This song is all about learning who we can count on and how important it is to have friends and family who are there for us."

2. **Teach Actions:** "I'm going to show you some actions to go with the song. When we sing about Ollie, we can flap our arms like wings. When we sing about friends and family, we can point to each other and give a big thumbs up!"

3. **Practice Together:** "Let's sing the song together with the actions! I'll lead, and you can join in."





## “Ollie the Owl Learns Who to Count On”

### Verse 1

"Ollie the Owl up in the tree"  
 "Hooting so proud one two and three"  
 "Counting his wings flapping so free"  
 "Hooting in joy just look and see"

### Actions

Flap arms like wings and stretch them up high like a tall tree.  
 Cup hands around mouth and pretend to hoot, then hold up one, two, and three fingers.  
 Flap arms like wings and count to three with fingers.  
 Cup hands around mouth and pretend to hoot, then point to eyes and then outward.

### Verse 2

"Ollie's got buddies down on the ground"  
 "Fox and the rabbit hopping around"  
 "Counting their steps bouncing so sound"  
 "Friends all together never feel down"

Point down and make hopping motions with fingers.  
 Make fox ears with fingers and then hop like a rabbit.  
 Pretend to count with fingers while hopping.  
 Hold hands together and smile, then give a thumbs up.

### Chorus

"One two three always can be"  
 "Counting on friends and family"  
 "Hoot hoot hoot just look and see"  
 "One two three you're here with me"

Hold up one, two, and three fingers.  
 Point to imaginary friends and family around.  
 Cup hands around mouth and pretend to hoot, then point to eyes and then outward.  
 Hold up one, two, and three fingers, then point to self and others.

### Verse 3

"Ollie feels brave with friends so near"  
 "Flying so high no need to fear"  
 "Counting their cheers filling the air"  
 "One two three love everywhere"

Place hands on hips and stand tall, then gesture to friends around.  
 Flap arms like wings and look confident.  
 Pretend to count with fingers and then cup hands around mouth to cheer.  
 Hold up one, two, and three fingers, then spread arms wide.

### Bridge

"If Ollie trips and starts to fall"  
 "Friends and family hear his call"  
 "Counting on them they catch it all"  
 "Hoot hoot hoot we stand so tall"

Pretend to trip and fall gently.  
 Cup hands around mouth and pretend to call out.  
 Pretend to count with fingers and then make a catching motion.  
 Cup hands around mouth and pretend to hoot, then stand tall with arms raised.

### Chorus

"One two three always can be"  
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### Connect Back to the Lesson Teacher Script:

- “Remember, just like Ollie learned in the song, it’s important to know who we can count on.”

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

### Role-Playing with Puppets

- Use the owl, bear, beaver, hare, or bee puppets to act out different scenarios where Ollie learns who he can count on. Let the children take turns using the puppets to practice asking for help and offering help to others.

### Activity 1: Role-Playing with Puppets



- 1. Introduce the Role-Playing Activity**
  - “We’re going to play a game now with our puppet friends, and we’re going to help Ollie learn who he can trust and depend on.”
- 2. Explain the Role-Play**
  - “I have a few different puppets here—Ollie the Owl, Benny the Bear, Betty the Beaver, and Ollie’s mom and dad. I’ll read a little story, and then we’ll act out how Ollie can ask for help from his friends and family.”
- 3. Scenario 1 (for Example)**
  - “Ollie is flying through the forest, but he feels a little lost. He sees his friend Benny the Bear. How should Ollie ask for help? And what do you think Benny will do?” (Let children act out the scenario with the puppets, practicing how to ask for and offer help.)
- 4. Wrapping it Up**
  - “Great job! Remember, friends and family are there to help us when we need them.”





## Activity 2: Trust Trees Craft

### 1. Trust Trees Craft

- Provide materials for the children to make "Trust Trees."
- Have them draw a tree on a piece of paper and decorate it with cut-out leaves.
- On each leaf, they can draw or write the name of someone they can trust or count on.
- While they work, discuss the importance of having dependable people in their lives.

### 1. Introduce the Craft

- "Now we're going to make 'Trust Trees' to show who we can count on. On each leaf of our tree, we're going to write or draw the names or faces of people we trust—our family, friends, teachers, or even our pets."

### 2. Explain the Craft

- "Decorate your tree trunk. On each leaf, draw or write the name of someone you can trust."

### 3. Encourage Reflection

- "While you're creating, think about a time when that person helped you. How did it feel to know they were there for you?" (Encourage sharing as they work on their trees.)
- "When we're finished, we'll have a tree full of people we can count on, just like Ollie learned in his story!"

## Wrap Up the Lesson (5 minutes)

### Review and Reflection Overview:

- Gather the children back in a circle.
- Review what they learned about trust and dependability.
- Ask a few children to share their "Trust Trees" and explain who they can count on and why.



## Review and Reflection Teacher Script

### 1. Gather in a Circle for Reflection:

- "Let's gather in our circle with our beautiful Trust Trees!"
- "Today, we learned about trust and dependability. These are big words, but they mean something very special. They mean knowing who will be there for us when we need help."

### 2. Closing

- "You all did an amazing job today learning about trust and making your Trust Trees. Remember, we can count on each other here in our classroom, just like Ollie counts on his friends and family."

## Parent Letter

### Sending Information Home:

- Provide each child with a letter to take home to their parents explaining the lesson.
- Include the story summary, the importance of trust and dependability, and how parents can reinforce these concepts at home.





Dear Parents,

Today in class, we learned about trust and dependability through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns Who to Count On." This story teaches children the importance of knowing who they can count on when they need help or feel lost.

Here's what we learned:

- ★ Trust– Understanding who we can depend on for help and support.
- ★ Dependability – Recognizing that friends and family can be there for us when we need them.

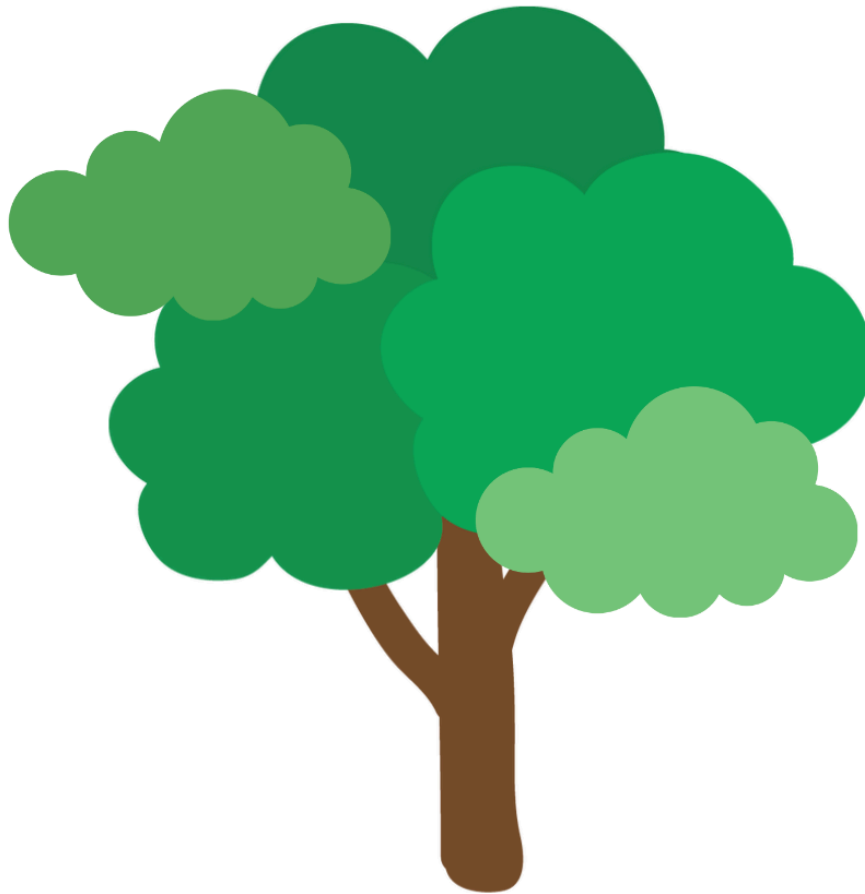
We practiced these concepts through role-playing and making "Trust Trees." You can help reinforce this at home by encouraging your child to talk about who they trust and why, and who is dependable in their lives.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



## My Trust Tree



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## ***Ollie the Owl Learns Who to Count On***

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### Verse 2

"Ollie's got buddies down on the ground"  
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