Just for Kids!

What is decisiveness?

"Decisiveness" comes from a Latin word meaning "to cut." It has the idea of "cutting through" all the possible choices to come to the right decision.

To be able to make the right decisions in life, you first have to have some good standards and goals by which you will measure your choices. It is important to be able to picture what that choice will lead to "down the road," rather than just thinking what will feel good at the moment. If your choice will help you achieve what you know to be right and to meet your goals, then it probably is the right choice. Asking a wise authority for advice will help you make the right choices.

Once you have made the right decision, it is important to stick with it and to carry it through. A decisive person is willing to do the hard work to bring his decision to completion.

"Decisiveness" vs. Procrastination

"The ability to recognize key factors and finalize difficult decisions."

I will:

- Not look back.
- Do what I say.
- Make the right decision and stick to it.
- Look at things from more than one point of view before making up my mind.
- Not give in to peer pressure.

--permission to use granted by Character First

Decisiveness in Nature

Lessons From the Badger

When threatened, a badger instantly sizes up the situation and determines whether to stand its ground or retreat. Many times it will back down rather than fight. Occasionally, it will bluff its adversary until it gains an opportunity to retreat before an actual conflict. If a badger decides to fight, however, it does not turn back. A badger is not afraid to take on an animal several times larger than itself. A foolish hunter who reaches into a burrow after a retreating badger may suddenly find a set of teeth clamped onto his arm and a relentless badger attempting to pull him into the hole.

Did you spot the "I Will"? Once the badger makes up his mind to stand and fight, he does not look back.

A badger's loose-fitting hide becomes a particular advantage in battle. Opponents cannot get a good grip on the badger because its skin and fur stretch away from its muscular body, preventing an assailant from grabbing anything vital and giving the badger additional flexibility to defend itself. With this physical advantage and relentless persistence, badgers have been known to make short work of dogs four times their own weight.

Did you spot the "I Will"? He will fight when he thinks it is the right decision and will stick to it.

Were it not for the badger's decisive movements, it would have been destroyed by the sheep herder. An effective and swift excavator, the badger is capable of digging itself out of sight in ninety seconds. Endowed with special equipment which aids in digging and defense, the burrowing badger is well-known but seldom seen.

Concept by: Character First

Memory Work

"I will not change the choice I made,
I'll do just what I say,
I'll make the right decision
And stick by it-come what may!"

I will look at things from every view
Before my mind is set.
No pressure from my friends will change
the goals that must be met."

To be a character builder,
I will choose to do what's best.
I will build a habit that is wise
So I can pass the test."

What Does Decisiveness Look Like?

" Thinking of all the possible choices before making a decision, so that I am not impulsive.
" Making sure my decision will help me get to my long term goals. (Will skipping piano practice to go out with friends help me win the piano contest I have entered?)
" Committing to finishing the task I decided to start.
" Not putting off the tasks I chose because they are boring or unpleasant.
" Sticking to the choice I made even though my friends try to talk me out of it.

Click here for more on Decisiveness