Character Ed Partnership Principles

Ripple Effects software is aligned to every one of the Character Education Partnership's Principles of Effectiveness.

Principle 1

Promotes core ethical values as the basis of good character.
Ripple Effects software had separate tutorials for the core ethical values of *honesty, fairness, respect, courtesy, responsibility* and *trust.*

Principle 2

Defines "character" comprehensively to include thinking, feeling, and behavior.
Thinking: each topic is introduced with a problem-solving scenario and questions that involve critical thinking. Specific tutorials include training in *predicting consequences* through the use of *if/then sentences*, *brainstorming,* and using objective criteria of *fairness, safety*, and rightness in *making decisions*. **Feeling:** journal activities for every topic include identification of feelings related to that topic. Specific tutorials include *understanding feelings, predicting feelings, managing anger, sadness, fear, discouragement, embarrassment; identifying with others, perspective taking*. **Behavior training:** tutorials include training in refusal skills and impulse control, and specific behavior training to prevent lying, cheating, stealing, fighting, teasing and breaking rules.

Principle 3

Uses a comprehensive, intentional, proactive, and effective approach to character development. *Comprehensive,* in addition to the 45 topics listed directly in the character education unit, there are almost 100 additional tutorials on related learning and safety issues. *Effective:* Every tutorial includes no fewer than 10 proven effective strategies for developing affective, cognitive, and behavioral skills.

Principle 4

Creates a caring school community. Tutorials on *empathy*, *sharing, forgiveness*, and getting and *giving help*, are included directly in the character education unit. Additional topics on *making friends*, *joining groups*, *resolving conflicts* and *teachers' problems* are available.

Principle 5

Provides students with opportunities for moral action. Transfer training opportunities for friends, family, and sports situations and media analysis, as well as role-plays, are included with every tutorial.

Principle 6

Includes a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum that respects all learners, develops their character, and helps them to succeed. Ripple Effects software addresses all the non-academic issues that affect academic success. These include tutorials and student profiles on learning styles, attention problems, and teacher conflict.

Principle 7

Strives to foster students' self-motivation. Ripple Effects software has specific tutorials on effort, setting goals and dealing with feelings of frustration or discouragement. In addition, journal exercise for every topic specifically invites committing to specific goals.

Principle 8

Engages the school staff as a learning and moral community that shares responsibility for character education and attempts to adhere to the same core values that guide the education of students. A companion product for teachers, promotes the same core values with specific coaching techniques for setting and enforcing rules designed to support a safe, caring, moral community.

Principle 9

Fosters shared moral leadership and long-range support of the character education initiative. Because the content expertise is built into the program, and not dependent on on-going staff training, the program is sustainable over the long terms. All Ripple Effects products foster a sense of shared leadership and community through transfer training opportunities and topics that address connectedness issues.

Principle 10

Engages families and community members as partners in the character-building effort. Every topic has extension activities for family and community. Every topic has a journal writing activity where students identify who in the community can help them when they are faced with life challenges. There are specific tutorials on talking to parents, reporting unsafe conduct, and getting help.

Principle 11

Evaluates the character of the school, the school staff's functioning as character educators, and the extent to which students manifest good character. Ripple Effects offers evaluation software that is engaging for students and not reading dependent. It can be used to evaluate school climate, respect for persons and individual resilience.