

INDEPENDENCE

Activity Packet

A collection of resources aligned to the theme of Independence

Independence is two-sided: independence to (do something) and independence from (some sort of constraint). As children develop, both types of independence can be exciting and daunting at the same time, so reading about independence can help children get ready for more of it.

This packet includes activities for...

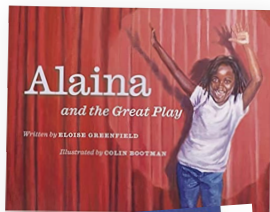
- Educators to use in the classroom
- Families to use at home

We recommend you print and copy the Family Resource pages to send home to extend and encourage continuous learning!

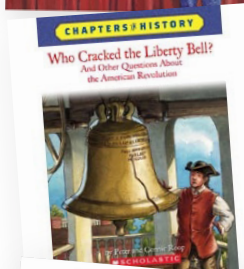
For more reading fun, visit

www.RIF.org/Literacy-Central/Collections/Independence

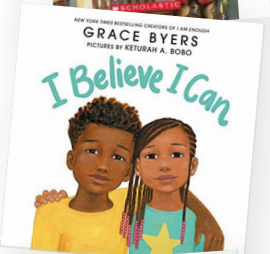
Recommended Books About Independence



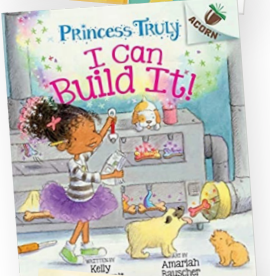
Alaina and the Great Play
Author: Eloise Greenfield
Illustrator: Colin Bootman
Grades K-2



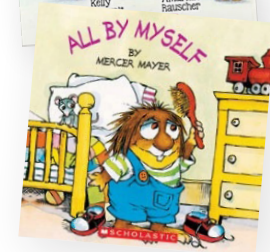
Chapters in History: Who Cracked the Liberty Bell?
Authors: Connie and Peter Roop
Grades 2-3



I Believe I Can
Author: Grace Byers
Illustrator: Keturah A. Bobo
Grades K-2



I Can Build It!: An Acorn Book (Princess Truly #3)
Author: Kelly Greenawalt
Illustrator: Amariah Rauscher
Grades PK-1



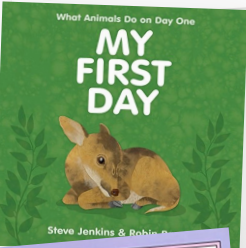
Little Critter: All By Myself
Author and Illustrator: Mercer Mayer
Grades K-2



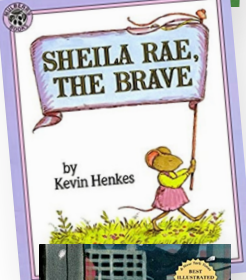
Mel Fell
Author and Illustrator: Corey R. Tabor
Grades PK-3



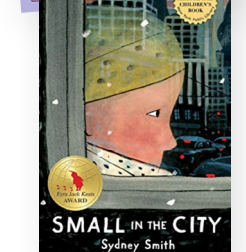
Mom, It's My First Day of Kindergarten
Author and Illustrator: Hyewon Yum
Grades PK -1



My First Day
Authors: Steve Jenkins and Robin Page
Illustrator: Steve Jenkins
Grades PK-1



Shelia Rae, The Brave
Author and Illustrator: Kevin Henkes
Grades PK-1



Small in the City
Author and Illustrator: Sydney Smith
Grades PK-3

Discussion questions for any recommended book listed above:

1. How did the characters in this book use their independence?
2. Did the characters who were independent have support? How?
3. Do you have as much independence as you want? Where would you like more?
4. How can people show that they're ready for more independence?
5. In what ways can too much independence be a problem?

For additional activities for the books listed, please visit
www.RIF.org/Literacy-Central/Collections/Independence

Classroom Activity:

**10-MINUTES TO
LEARN INDEPENDENTLY**

Invite your students to take 10 minutes to investigate or practice something they want to learn more about.

This activity is designed for independent work.

STEPS

1. Establish whatever rules you need to make independent research/learning work in your classroom. For example, maybe you'll allow trips to the library, use of a digital device, or work in the hallway...or maybe not. Have the rules ready to introduce with the activity.
2. Choose a topic that is relevant to your classwork, about which you'd like your students to know more. Review some of the ways that people can learn independently (e.g., reading, watching, listening, experimenting).
3. Invite your students to read/research/learn on their own within whatever set of rules you've established. Provide 10 minutes of independent learning time. (We encourage you to model independent learning during this time, too.)
4. After 10 minutes, ask your students to summarize what they learned in one sentence and share it with a partner, a small group, or the whole class.
5. (Optional) Ask your students to provide one tip for successful independent learning on a sticky note for the wall or as an exit card.

Home Activity: 10-MINUTES EACH

Note to Families: Our class is learning about independence with literacy resources from Reading Is Fundamental. Complete this activity with your child to help deepen their understanding of independence.

In this activity, you and your child (and any other family members, if you like) will spend 10 minutes independently with the goal of coming back to share what you learned, accomplished, or enjoyed.

STEPS

1. Ask your child how they have learned independently in school. (They may have completed an activity about independent learning, already.)
2. Agree to spend 10 minutes learning independently about anything that interests you both. You can also have other family participate, everyone learning about their own interests and reporting back to the group.
3. Set a timer and separate to learn about your topic. Someone may be reading, someone may be listening to something on the phone, someone may be watching TV, someone may be doing an experiment, etc.
4. After 10 minutes, come back together and teach each other what you learned in your 10 minutes.
5. (Optional) Complete this activity at your local library, where you can find all kinds of resources (including the reference librarian!) about different topics.