



september 2021

Packing lunch, signing papers, putting homework in the backpack...the list of things to do seems never-ending! This month, as we teach our Big Idea, practice it at home! Did you know that K-2 kids are improving in their hand-eye coordination and 3-5th graders can collaborate on house rules and consequences? Use those skills to help them develop...

## **INITIATIVE:**

*Seeing what needs to be done and doing it.*

## Initiative SEPTEMBER 2021



### SAY IT:

Initiative means seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

### KNOW IT:

#### ASK A KID:

- Describe a time you solved a problem on your own.
- Ask yourself, are you good at coming up with solutions to problems?
- Have you ever heard of the phrase “go getter”? Discuss this analogy with your teacher at school or your parents at home. Ask them what things you could do to earn this title.

#### ASK A GROWN UP:

- How do you show initiative at home or at work?
- What are some examples of showing initiative at home or in your relationships with others? What are some things that you do regularly to show initiative?

### SEE IT:

The year 2020 saw many private citizens, organizations, and charities across the world helping others. People across the globe pitched in to conquer the constantly evolving problems associated with the coronavirus pandemic. We witnessed people sewing masks and donating them and other personal protective equipment (PPE) to medical offices and hospitals. We witnessed organizations take donations to local food banks to feed those in need. We witnessed people donate their blood to help scientists study the way the virus affected individuals. First responders stepped up in a big way to help keep people healthy and safe. The year was a trying time, certainly one that won't ever be forgotten; however, it was a great testimony to the way in which humankind saw a great need and did something about it.

### BE IT:

As a family, sit down and discuss things that need to be done at home. What are some needs in the family? Examples might include home improvements, cleaning out closets and donating old clothes and shoes, fixing car issues, resolving relationship issues, etc. Make a goal each week to identify a need and do something about it. Come to the table once the week is finished and discuss ways that each member demonstrated initiative.

# PHASE

Initiative  
SEPTEMBER 2021



## At every age, kids need significant relationships.

The significant relationships in a child's life include parents, teachers, relatives, coaches, and spiritual leaders.

As a parent, you can encourage these relationships as a way to ensure that other trusted adults are surrounding your kids with the same messages and advice that you would.

**So don't miss it.** This year, this month, today is just a Phase!

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INITIATIVE // SEAHORSE // ULTRAMARINE

**From the moment they are born,** baby seahorses must fend for themselves. At first, they use their tails to cling together in groups as they figure out how to eat and hide from predators.

The fortunate few making it to adulthood live amazing lives with unusual adaptations, including eyes that can move independently of one another, and tails that grasp and serve as anchors. They are fish, like their pipefish and sea dragon cousins, but unusual ones. They swim upright, have armor-like bony plates to discourage predators, and can change color via camouflage!

A small pectoral fin (on their backs) beats back and forth at up to 50 times a second, hummingbird-style. Alas, its tiny size doesn't lead to much forward progress. A seahorse can only swim a few yards an hour. But it can also move up, down, and backwards, like a helicopter.

If seahorses really need to cover some space, they latch on to floating vegetation, or, sadly, sometimes to trash. Like other marine animals, these wondrous little creatures can be harmed by too much plastic in the ocean.

They stick with one mate for long periods of time. In fact, they begin each morning with a special courtship dance with their partner.

Baby seahorses (like other young fish, called "fry") come into the world in a unique way. The female seahorse deposits her eggs (as many as 2,000) into a special pouch in the male, and he carries them until they hatch and emerge as fully formed little seahorses.

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**Baby seahorses look like miniature adults and must take care of themselves.**

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With a name made from the Latin words for “beyond” and “sea,” this color has been pursued by traders and artists for centuries. It comes from Lapis lazuli, a mixture of minerals more commonly thought of as a semiprecious stone. Used as a pigment as early as the fifth century, ultramarine continued to be expensive and highly prized by artists through the Renaissance and well beyond. It was as precious as gold. This long-lasting color is considered “true blue” and suggests confidence and reliability.

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