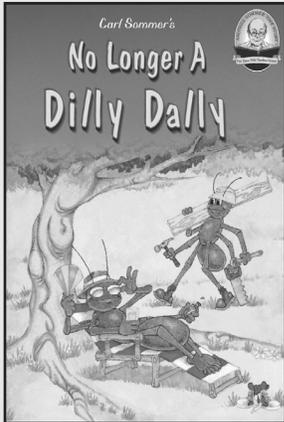


# Character Education Activities

## 12. No Longer a Dilly Dally

### Story Description



Ants have to work hard during the summer to build their homes and gather food for the winter, but the Dilly Dally family have a different tradition: they always play first. If they have any time, then they work a little.

The Family Work Play ants, however, first build their house and gather their food, then they relax and have fun. So they built a strong house and had lots of food for the coming winter.

When the long, cold winter came, the Dilly Dally family had a tough time finding food and keeping warm. However, they learned an important lesson, and changed their name to Family Work First.

In this delightful and inspiring book by Carl Sommer shows the importance of diligence, responsibility, and having a proper work ethic. Children will learn that by working first and playing later, it will bring much greater happiness.

### Major Objective

To define and present the following virtues so they can be integrated into the life of each student:

- **Diligence:** constant effort and work to complete a project; perseverance
- **Responsibility:** being trustworthy to complete assignments and duties
- **Proper work ethic:** the attitude or belief that work is good and that a job well done brings rewards

### Story Time Interaction

Review the characters and story line.

1. Describe the Dilly Dally family.
2. Describe a typical Dilly Dally day.
3. Describe the Work Play family.
4. Describe a typical Work Play day.
5. Which family accomplished more? Why?
6. What can we learn from this story?
7. How does what I learned apply to me? At school? At home?
8. Why is teamwork important? Some jobs are too big for one person alone. Name some jobs that require teamwork at school, at home, at play.

## Activities

**Objective:** To use the following activities to help reinforce the virtues of diligence, responsibility, and proper work ethic

Read the story, *No Longer a Dilly Dally*, and then write the three virtues on the board: diligence, responsibility, and proper work ethic. Define and discuss these virtues.

## Class Garden

### Responsibility Required for Plants to Grow

**Goal:** To reinforce the idea that in order to grow plants, work must be done at the proper time or the plants will not grow

**Materials for Class Garden:** (*Make assignments for each step of the garden*):

1. Decide how many containers; what kind of plant containers (plastic flower pots, window boxes, pint or half-gallon milk containers, etc.) to use for plants.

2. Decide what kind of plants to grow: greenery, flowers, or vegetables. **Suitable plants:** English Ivy, Angel Wing Begonia, Foliage Begonia, Coleus, Shrimp Plants, Geranium, Impatiens, African violets, and others (check with a garden shop in your area for additional plants suited to your climate.)

3. Have the class fill their containers with dirt, seed, seeds, or plant. Let the plants grow in class. After a certain time, let the students take the plants home.

**Web:** Go on the Web and search for other ideas about planting. Type in: "growing plants from cuttings"

## Plant Growing Contest

Give students a plant or seed/s in a container and let them take it home. After a period of time, let them bring their plant back to school. See which students have the healthiest plant. Have a class discussion on responsibilities to grow plants. (African violets can be started in water. Poke a hole in baby food jars covers and fill the jars with water. Let the plants take root in the class. When plants have roots, let the students take them home and plant them in a container.)

## Word Contest

### Proper Work Ethic

**Goal:** To help students understand what it is to have a proper work ethic

**Word Contest:** Put on the board and discuss, "Proper Work Ethic." Then divide the students in groups of four or five students. See which group can make the most words from these letters, and also which group can make the longest word. If there is a tie on the longest word, the winner is the one with the most long words.

## School Work

### Dilly Dally's Way and Family Work Play's Way

**Goal:** To teach students that to become successful they must be willing to work

**Discussion:** Take the work that is required for the term and have the students evaluate what happens if they do it Family Dilly Dally's Way and Family Work Play's Way.

**Family Dilly Dally's Way:**

1. Immediate fun
2. Failing class work
3. Failing grades
4. Dropping out of school
5. Lifetime failure

**Family Work Play's Way:**

1. First work
2. Afterward fun
3. Passing class work
4. Passing grade
5. Finishing school
6. Lifetime success

## **Doing It Right**

**Goal:** To recognize that doing things improperly has consequences

**Discussion:** Discuss situations and the consequences where jobs are incorrectly done. Cite some examples, and let students think of others.

- John washes Dad's car and doesn't take time to rinse the soap off. What happens when Dad goes out the next morning to drive to work?
- Farmer Gray's helper goes out to gather eggs and feed the chickens but forgets to latch the gate. What will the chickens do?
- Pete doesn't close the gate after he works in the garden. The dog runs away. What must be done to make sure the dog returns home?
- Sarah takes the trash outside but puts it on the driveway instead of on the grass. What happens when Mom backs the car out the next morning?

## **Tying It All Together**

### **If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing right!**

Do you have chores? What do you like to do with your free time? Would you like to have more free time? Doing a job and then having to do it over because it wasn't done correctly the first time is a waste of your time. Do it right the first time and you will have more free time to do what you LIKE to do! A job well done makes you feel better and has its own rewards. Make it a habit of doing your best. You'll never regret it.