



Best Children's
Audiobook
Benjamin Franklin
Award™
2006

What Went Right Today?SM

Children ages 4 - 8



Teachers' Choice™ Award
for the Family 2007
Learning® Magazine

A resource guide for preschool and elementary grades

Welcome to the What Went Right Today?SM resource guide. The following suggestions can assist teachers, administrators and guidance counselors in integrating What Went Right Today?SM into a school's curriculum*.

What Went Right Today?SM, the book and song combination, is a catalyst for guiding students in recognizing the good in everyday experiences. This guide offers suggestions for use in Language Arts, Character Development, Fine Arts, Music and Communication. What Went Right Today?SM can be used as an individual subject area activity or as a cross-content study unit. The activities take into account the various learning strengths and include the elements such as sound, music, visuals, movement, experience, and talking. Suggested activities for parent involvement are included.

Areas for curriculum integration

- **Character Development / Social and Emotional Development**

Appreciation	Pride in oneself
Caring	Respect for oneself
Personal Interests	Resiliency
Positive attitude	Respect for others
Positive thinking	Responsibility

- **Language Arts**

Reading	Writing – journaling
Word recognition	Creative writing
Phonics	Spelling
Comprehension	Grammar
Writing as a process	Punctuation
Rhyming	

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- **Communication**

Patterns of communication are learned behaviors. A student develops constructive ways of communicating through adult role models, interactions with peers and through practicing these skills. **What Went Right Today?**SM generates the discussions for identifying positive events in a child's world.

- **Visual Arts**

Students will:

- Gain an awareness of illustrated styles in children's literature
- Practice the technical skills involved in book illustration
- Produce their own artistic product (e.g. illustrate their own book or make a collage)
- Understand that visual arts are forms of expression and communication
- Have an opportunity to learn and use terminology involved in the visual arts

- **Music**

Students will:

- Gain an awareness of the components of music
- Practice performing through singing
- Create lyrics for a song
- Have an opportunity to learn and use terminology involved in music performance and composition
- Understand that music is a form of expression and communication

Introduction to the book and journaling project
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1. Begin each day reading and playing **What Went Right Today?**SM as a group activity.
2. Each day select one of the book's questions and encourage students to respond.
3. Ask each student to talk about one good thing or something he / she likes.
4. As a group activity create verses about what went right today in each student's day.
5. Additional questions:
 - Tell us about your favorite shoes, clothes or lunch?
 - Who are your friends? What do you like to do with your friends?
 - Have you helped someone recently?

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- What games do you like to play? Why do you like them?
- What is your favorite story or book? Why do you like to read it?
- What is your favorite music?
- Tell us about your favorite subject?
- What is the best part of the school day?

6. Each student creates and maintains a personal journal. Set aside daily a time for students to work on the journal. Students who have not mastered writing as a skill are encouraged to draw a “what went right today” picture and are encouraged to dictate the text to the teacher.

Alternative suggestion: Save the journal writing as an end of the school day activity.

Cross - Content Curriculum Activity
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Language Art and / or Fine Arts

- Students design their own **What Went Right Today?**SM book.
 - Suggested book contents
 - Book cover: front and back
 - Dedication page
 - A copyright page
 - Table of contents or an information page about the book (this is my story about what went right)
 - Text pages
 - Illustrations
 - Author biography
- Students design a **What Went Right Today?**SM collage

Music Education

- Teach the **What Went Right Today?**SM song to the students
- The song includes a melody, two harmonies, a descant, a chorus and has a guitar accompaniment. Help the students identify the various music elements

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- Students may write their own lyrics as a group project or write the lyrics as an individual project. The lyricist uses the technique of rhyming the end of phrases
- Vocabulary words include: composer, lyricist, arrangement, melody, harmony, descant, accompaniment, narrated text

(A choral arrangement, for the elementary school choir, is available for purchase through the publisher. The lyrics have been modified for the upper elementary grades **or** include verses the students have created.)

Character Education

Throughout the **WWRT: What Went Right Today?**SM book and song, there are situations that can lead to discussions about responsibility, caring, respect, personal interests, appreciation, honesty, positive attitudes, pride in oneself and cooperation.

In addition to the students responding to the questions asked in **WWRT: What Went Right Today?**SM, here are questions to use to stimulate thought and discussion.

- Can you name ways you help your family, help your community or take care of yourself?
- In what ways can we show respect to ourselves, others and the things we have?
- How do you show that you are responsible?
- What are activities you like to do? Why is it important to have hobbies and interests?
- What are some things that you do that give you a sense of pride?
- What is appreciation? Name things you appreciate. What are some things you do to show your appreciation?
- Why is it important to listen when other people are speaking?

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Parent Involvement

The NCLB mandate requires parent involvement in school programs. Below are suggestions to include parents while developing positive relations and attitudes about school. Including parents in the **What Went Right Today?**SM program will help open doors of positive communication.

Suggested activities for parent involvement

- Send home the journals once a week for parents to review. When possible – have the journal accessible (displayed) for the child’s parent to view
- Have a class copy of **WWRT: What Went Right Today?**SM circulating home with each child. Ask parents to write a short event about something good that happened during their day
- Parents may want to share a photograph about something good that has happened in the family
- A family writing event. If your school has a family writing evening invite parents to write their own **What Went Right Today?**SM book with their child. (See the “suggested book content” under the **Cross – Content Curriculum Activity** listed above)

Maximize **What Went Right Today?**SM in your school or organization

What Went Right Today?SM can be a powerful vehicle in promoting a positive attitude toward school for students, parents and school personnel. Schedule a day with the author(s) / composer or illustrator. Start off the **What Went Right Today?**SM unit or keep the positive attitudes going with these programs.

- Author classroom visit
- School assembly program*
- Parent and Student assembly program*

* If selecting an assembly program for children ages 4 – 5, it is requested that the group size be limited to 50 children unless each child is sitting with an parent / adult.

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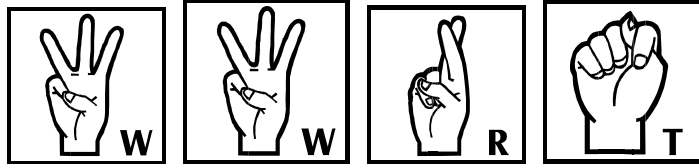
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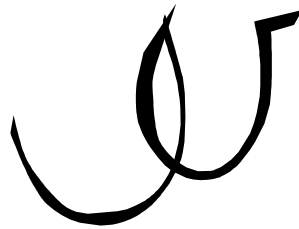
American Sign Language



What?



Went Right (Success)
With both hands scroll a
“W” from the mouth
with the tip of each
index finger



“You” – point to a child



“Me” – point to yourself

“Day” - The left arm lies horizontal while the right arm, with index finger pointed, is perpendicular to the left arm and moves down resting upon the left arm (like the hand on a clock).

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