

The Very Determined Dog, Ivy!

Determination can go along way, especially in difficult times. In this home activity, your child will hear the true story of Ivy, the very determined dog, who plays, loves, and runs, just like the other dogs, even though she does not have the ability to walk with her hind legs. Designed with kindergarten and first grade learners in mind, this social emotional learning activity will help children build important skills related to self-confidence, goal setting, and mindfulness of thoughts.

What You Need:

- [Ivy the Very Determined Dog](#) video (YouTube)
- Book: [Ivy the Very Determined Dog](#) by Chris & Maureen Harrington (Optional)
- The [Letter to Ivy](#) worksheet



What You Do:

1. Ask your child, "Can you think of someone that is strong, brave, and determined?"
2. Define the word **determined** as "deciding to do your best no matter what or making a choice and sticking to it with purpose." Give your child the following example: "Perhaps you aren't able to hit a baseball when it's first pitched to you. But you make a decision to keep focused and practice no matter what. Then you eventually can hit the ball, sometimes even out of the park!"
3. Offer some examples from your own life where you practiced determination.
4. Show your child the video [Ivy the Very Determined Dog](#) (or read the book if available).
5. Pause during the video to read each page from the book.
6. Ask your child, "How did Ivy show determination?"
7. Ask, "What were some of the difficulties Ivy was faced with? How did she overcome them?"
8. Ask, "How can determination help us, too? If we have a challenge, how can we remember to stay strong?"
9. Share or elaborate on moments from your own life where you had to exhibit determination and overcome challenges.
10. Review the Letter to Ivy worksheet with your child, and help them decide what they want to draw and write!

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