



July 2008

Character Council Educator Quality of the Month Decisiveness

Decisiveness:
**The ability to recognize key
factors and finalize difficult
decisions.**

I will:

- Not look back
- Do what I say
- Make the right decision and stick to it
- Look at things from more than one point of view before making up my mind
- Not give in to peer pressure

You've heard the idioms: "clear cut", "cut and dried", and "to cut a deal". These are all decisive statements and should not be confused with rash decisions or snap reactions. Decisiveness is knowing what facts are important to consider in making a decision, knowing the right decision to make and taking responsibility to see that decision through to completion. Having good character is a sure foundation for being able to process information into sound decisions. This month exercise your decisiveness and make solid, clear-cut decisions.

- ☺ **Little by Little** Reproduce the picture below for the students to view. Pass it around the classroom. Have each student silently write down what they see. Some will see the rabbit. (He is looking to the right and his ears are pointing left.) Some will see the duck. (He is facing left and his beak is facing left.) After all students have recorded their answer, poll the class to see how many saw the duck and how many saw the rabbit. Pass the picture around again and see if the students can see both animals. Use this example of how you can look at a situation and not see the danger in it. Sometimes parents or teachers can look at a situation and see the harm it can do. Advice that comes from trusted adults should be followed because they could be seeing a situation differently. Making good decisions requires collecting data from trusted sources and processing that data into a decision. Discussing why a parent or teacher feels a certain way can lead to discovering information that helps one to make better decisions.

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Jill Tomey, Director of Education, jtomey@charactercincinnati.org**

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513.467.0170 mrussell@charactercincinnati.org**

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