



R.E.P.A.Y

RESTORING ETHICAL PRIDE AMONG YOUTHS



Restoring Ethical Pride Among Youths: An Organization Helping Youths Develop Character and Integrity Through the Arts During Their Formative Years

1. Introduction

Overt and covert messages from industries such as the hip-hop industry, Hollywood, and the video game industry influence many youths to believe that a life of high moral standards is not valuable. Songs, movies, and video games often glamorize characters who engage in risky behaviors such as drinking, drug use, or sexual activity without fully presenting the consequences of these actions, and portray these risky behaviors as “cool,” rebellious, or carefree. As a consequence, many children infer that these behaviors are desirable or acceptable, or that no real consequences occur in life from engaging in these behaviors. A child may think, “So what? Everybody does it. It’s no big deal.” These influences may then contribute to problems such as teenage pregnancy, abortion, drug abuse, incarceration, and violence toward others.

Parents have a large influence on helping a child develop character, integrity, and ethical pride. However, as demonstrated by the Raising Good Kids Survey,¹ a national survey sponsored by Character.org in 2022, parents—regardless of their political, racial, and economic background—report struggling to foster character in their children 6 to 18 years old. Based on the parents’ responses to the survey, 75% expressed that character is less emphasized for children today than it was when they were growing up, 36% stated that their child did not always do the right thing because of the influence of social media and online content, and nearly one-half (47%) of parents stated that they wished they had more resources available to them to help inspire their child to be a good citizen. R.E.P.A.Y. is such a resource.



On September 10, 2007, Reverend Warren C. Patrick founded the youth-oriented Christian-based organization, Restoring Ethical Pride Among Youths (R.E.P.A.Y.). The vision of R.E.P.A.Y. is to help youths develop positive values and a strong sense of character and integrity during their formative years. To this end, the mission of R.E.P.A.Y. is to use the fine arts to foster positive self-expression in a child, help a child positively interact within a group setting, and help a child learn patience and responsibility through developing proficiency in a chosen art discipline. These principles are the basis of character, integrity, and ethical pride.

2. Social impacts of the Arts

Various studies²⁻⁴ demonstrate that the arts have a beneficial effect of on a child’s academic performance in math, reading, and science; critical thinking and problem-solving skills; creativity; self-expression, empathy, and understanding of diverse perspectives. The arts also

improve a child's memory retention and recall; improve social skills (e.g., collaboration, communication); increase cultural awareness and exposure; enhance the ability to learn; reduce behavioral problems; and reduce stress levels.²⁻⁴

Long-term studies,^{5,6} in which participants are followed for several years, indicate that students who receive arts education during their formative years experience long-term benefits such as higher graduation rates, increased likelihood of going to college, and enhanced career opportunities. For example, a study⁶ funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (Washington, DC) demonstrated that, as adults, individuals who had pursued arts education during high school were approximately 55% more likely to have attended college than were their non-arts peers; they were 26% less likely to have ever been arrested than were students without high school arts education, and each additional year of arts coursework decreased the risk of arrest by 9%; and they used illegal drugs to a significantly lesser extent than did former non-music students (e.g., former music students as adults were 20.25% less likely to have ever tried marijuana, 26.55% less likely to have ever tried cocaine, 41.18% less likely to have ever tried crystal meth, and 25.12% less likely to have ever tried other illicit substances).

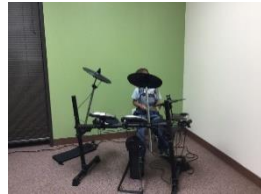
3. R.E.P.A.Y. is an alternative

Despite such encouraging findings, school systems sometimes drop arts programs because of funding issues and because of the tendency to view the arts as “not important.” R.E.P.A.Y. helps to fill that gap by providing free fine arts lessons to children. Through the arts, R.E.P.A.Y. has seen shy, reserved children blossom into confident performers, struggling students excel academically, and marginalized youths find a sense of belonging and purpose. R.E.P.A.Y. alumni have gone on to pursue careers in music, education, and other fields, while carrying with them the lessons and values instilled during their time with R.E.P.A.Y. A few of our success stories follow.

4. Restoring Ethical Pride Among Youths Success Stories

Drayden, one of R.E.P.A.Y.'s youngest students, started playing the drums at age 2 years (in the middle image, if you look closely, you will see him behind the drum set). He is now a published teen author in elementary school.

Drayden at 2 years old



Drayden as a teen author



Mahica was a R.E.P.A.Y. student and very talented at the keyboard. She currently attends the University of Houston (Houston, TX).

Mahica as a child



Mahica as an adult



Abigayle was a R.E.P.A.Y. student and very talented at the keyboard. She recently completed college (University of Texas–Arlington, Arlington, TX) with a Master of Social Work degree.

Abigayle as a child



Abigayle as an adult



Pam was another of R.E.P.A.Y.'s youngest students and very talented at singing. She now attends Navaro College (Corsicana, TX).

Pam as a R.E.P.A.Y. student

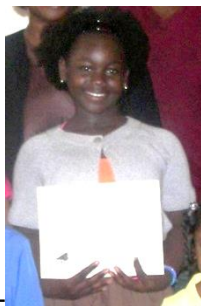


Pam as an adult



Maame was one of R.E.P.A.Y.'s first students and played the keyboard. She is now in medical school, studying to be a doctor.

Maame as a R.E.P.A.Y. student



Maame as a medical student



Conclusion

Since its inception, R.E.P.A.Y. has made a profound impact on the lives of countless children and their families. R.E.P.A.Y. is not just about teaching children how to play musical instruments, sing, write creatively, or draw; it is about empowering them to discover their passion, unlock their potential, and become confident, creative, and ethical and compassionate individuals. Through our free arts lessons, we are shaping the next generation of artists and nurturing future leaders, innovators, and changemakers.

5. How You Can Help

R.E.P.A.Y. transforms children's lives through the power of the arts. We invite you to help us in our vision of restoring ethical pride among youths during their formative years through the arts.

How?

You can contribute to the ethical citizens and leaders of tomorrow

by your [donation](#) or by [volunteering](#)

Your **donation** helps R.E.P.A.Y. pay for various expenses such as rent, printed materials, and field trips. Your time spent **volunteering** is time spent investing in the future of our children. Together, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to achieve his or her fullest potential. Click on a link below to learn more:

[DONATE](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

6. Contact us

Want to know more about our organization?

Visit our site at <https://repayorg.net>

Have a question about our organization?

Contact us at <https://repayorg.net/contact>

References

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