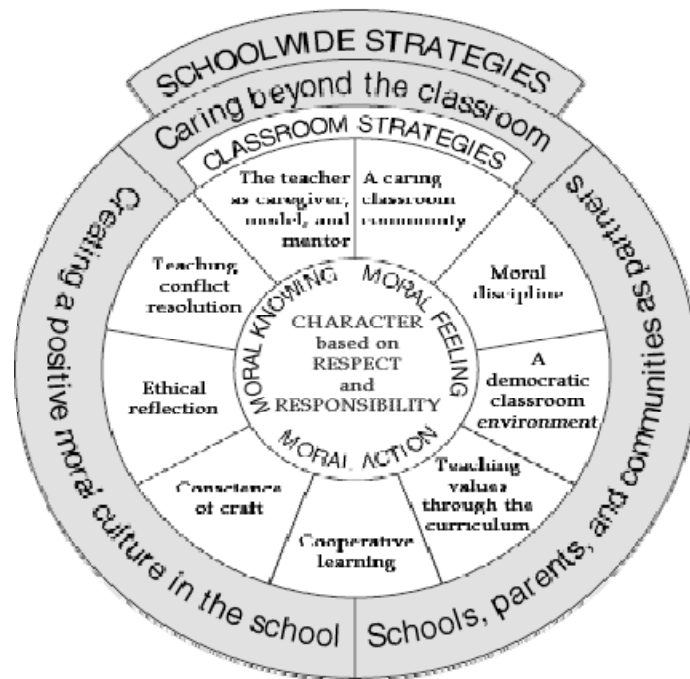


Center for the 4th and 5th Rs (Lickona)

Dr. Thomas Lickona is a developmental psychologist and professor at the State University of New York at Cortland. He frequently consults with schools about character education, and he is on the board of directors of the Character Education Partnership.

Dr. Lickona directs the Center for the 4th and 5th Rs (respect and responsibility). The Center’s philosophy is that character education is essential to the task of building a moral society and developing schools which are civil and caring communities. Character education provides parents and teachers with a variety of tools and strategies that help them to raise responsible, conscientious and compassionate children.

Lickona promotes a 12-point comprehensive approach to character education that uses all aspects of school life as opportunities to build character. The model below, which illustrates this approach, consists of an inner part with nine character-building strategies for the classroom and an outer part outlining three school-wide strategies.



Lickona believes there is no such thing as “value-free” education and that character development is as necessary as academic achievement. Lickona identifies two specific values, respect and responsibility, as the cornerstones of a school’s moral agenda.

Schools using Lickona’s comprehensive approach to character education consider the impact of school experiences on the development of students’ values and character. When this approach is adopted, teachers need to:

- act as caregivers, models and mentors
- create moral communities in the classroom
- practise moral discipline
- create democratic classroom environments
- teach values through the curriculum
- use cooperative learning
- encourage moral reflection
- teach conflict resolution.

Lickona proposes that, in addition to building moral classrooms, schools need to:

- foster caring beyond the classroom
- create positive moral cultures
- recruit parents and community as partners in character education.

Related Web site

www.cortland.edu/character/ (Center for the 4th and 5th Rs)

Related publications

Lickona, Thomas. *Educating for Character: How Our Schools Can Teach Respect and Responsibility*. New York, NY: Bantam Dell Publishing Group, 1991.

Lickona, Thomas. *Character Matters: How to Help Our Children Develop Good Judgment, Integrity, and Other Essential Virtues*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2004.