



# At the heart of me

**i'm  
feeling  
just  
great!**

## Success is developed; not learned

It will probably not come as a surprise to learn that the characteristics you display at home and school will manifest later in your professional life – at university and in the world of work – with positive or negative results.

The development of positive personality traits (known as megaskills) is therefore of the utmost importance, as the characteristics that reveal themselves in your personality at an early age will not change drastically without cause.

These megaskills are personality traits like the following:

- Initiative
- Self-confidence
- Motivation and ambition
- Perseverance, effort and the will to achieve
- Responsibility
- Empathy
- Emotional stability
- Social skills and tact
- Common sense
- Acceptance of challenges
- Creativity
- A positive attitude towards life, an understanding of your vocation and a notion of your personal calling
- Goal-setting
- The ability to remain focused
- Decision-making abilities and the ability to exercise choices
- Vision
- The ability to work in a team

- Impulse control
- The ability to follow through

According to Prof Kobus Maree of the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria, who specialises in the development of life skills, people who are assisted at home to develop particular personality traits, learn to work and to believe in themselves. They will develop a better self-image and will be more inclined to work harder at school and university.

These people will display the same personality traits at school and at university, will maintain better relationships, and will get along better with subordinates, peers and superiors. They will perform better and will subsequently develop higher aspirations, gain entrance to more popular fields of study and careers, achieve better marks at university and stand a much better chance of ultimately enjoying success in life.

The positive personality traits acquired and practised over a long period of time are those

characteristics that one would need to succeed in a career, and which will possibly make a difference between living from hand to mouth and success in life.

Von Oech, R. 1990. *A whack on the side of the head*. London: Thorsons.

Wood, R. & Tolley, H. 2003. *Test your emotional intelligence*. London: Kogan Page.

**nobody  
loves me,  
everybody  
hates me, i'm  
gonna eat some  
worms... \*sob\*  
\*sob\* \*sob\***

If you are interested in learning more about these life skills, have a look at the following books:

Maree, J.G. 2008. *Smarter the easy way*. Lapa Publishers.

Rich, D. 1998. *MegaSkills: Building children's achievement for the information age*. Houghtin Mifflin: Boston.

Rich, D. & Mattox, B.A. 2008. *MegaSkills for babies, toddlers and beyond: Building your child's happiness and success for life*. Naperville: Sourcebooks.

