



# LOVE OF LEARNING

VIA Survey calls this strength Love of Learning

**Parent virtue: Wisdom and Knowledge.** Strengths of wisdom and knowledge are cognitive strengths related to the acquisition and use of information. Strengths comprised in this virtue are creativity, curiosity, open-mindedness, love of learning and perspective.



## WHAT DOES LOVE OF LEARNING MEAN?

***You master new topics on your own or in school.***

Those with a love of learning are intrinsically motivated and engaged in a topic regardless of achieving an external standard. They enjoy learning simply for the sake of learning. They don't need a prize or a high grade as a reward. Their reward is the process of doing the work and improving.

People who love learning experience positive feelings in the process of acquiring skills, building on existing knowledge, or learning something completely new. Over time, individuals with this strength may develop deep and wide knowledge. Their knowledge enables them to make significant contributions to others' understanding.

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Developing a love of learning is highly beneficial for an individual. It means that they are intrinsically motivated to deepen their existing skills and abilities, or learn something completely new. Since intrinsically motivated action is correlated with positive emotions, those who act on their love of learning may also have enhanced mental and physical health. Additionally, individuals who love learning have the desire and ability to overcome challenges, due to a sense of autonomy and control over their environment.

On a group level, love of learning is crucial. The best leaders have an insatiable desire to learn. It's love of learning that compelled Benjamin Franklin to fly a kite and make significant advances in electricity. It's love of learning that led Nelson Mandela to study Afrikaans (the language of his oppressors) and read a smuggled copy of Shakespeare, while locked in Robben Prison. And it's only by learning and experimenting that we continue to grow.

## ***Individuals with this strength might be described as:***

- Studious
- Knowledgeable
- Immersed
- Interested
- Engaged
- Absorbed

## ***Individuals with this strength are likely to think, feel, or behave in the following ways:***

- I love learning new things and broadening my knowledge.
- I love diving deeply into the subjects in which I'm interested.
- I know a lot about my subject area
- Working on my area(s) of expertise never feels like "work" to me.
- I spend as much time in my area(s) of expertise as possible.
- I care more about doing a good job than gaining recognition.

## QUOTES ON LOVE OF LEARNING

*"I just learned things gradually, figuring out how to put electronic devices together without so much as cracking a book."*

**-STEVE WOZNIAK**

*"For me, I am driven by two main philosophies: know more today about the world than I knew yesterday and lessen the suffering of others. You'd be surprised how far that gets you."*

**-NEIL deGRASSE TYSON**

*"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."*

**-DR. SUESS**

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."*

**-MAHATMA GANDHI**