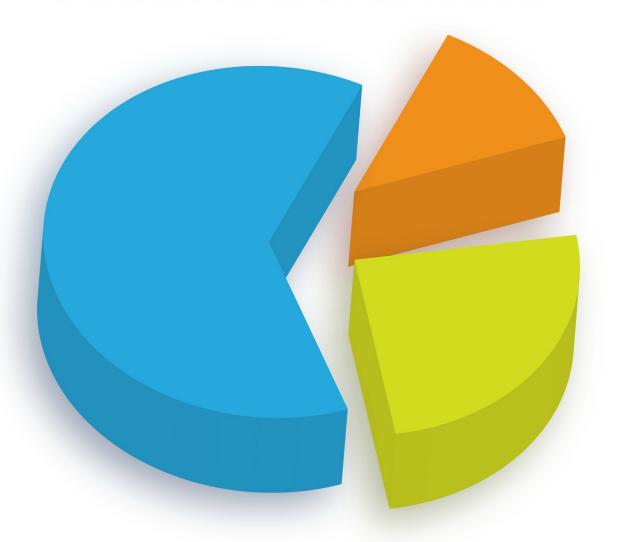
for character training of routine behaviors



by Donna Reish

Using the Consequence Pies*

- 1. Determine (with spouse, if possible) ahead of time what behaviors/routine problems are the most troublesome. (Pick one, two, or three**, depending on age: getting on computer before school is done; writing too sloppy on math pages; not taking trash down on Thursday nights; not cleaning room on Saturday mornings; working too slowly during family work time; etc.)
- 2. Meet with the child (with both parents whenever possible). With your child, come up with a list of the two (for four piece pie), three (for six piece pie), and four (for eight piece pie) most favorite things that the child enjoys doing. Write these down on the Consequence Pie in the order that he likes them least to greatest in the blanks (not pieces marked GRACE). In other words, if his least favorite of the three is watching a movie on Friday nights, put that in #2 piece; then his middle one is watching Youtube videos, put this on #4 piece; and his favorite is playing computer games after school for half an hour, put that in #6.
- 3. Explain the behaviors and the EXACT expectations. (See <u>expectation explanations</u> at our blog and listen to <u>Terms and Concepts From a Raising Kids With Character Parenting Seminar.</u>) Write these on the top of the Consequence Pie Sheet.
- **4.** Have your child repeat back to you the behaviors that are expected, including the details (time, duration, number of problems that must be done, etc.—whatever that might be).
- **5.** Explain the Consequence Pie system to him. (See sample explanation below.)
- 6. When the first infraction is committed, have your child go and physically move the spinner to the next pie piece and use a permanent marker to put an X on that piece. (Do not do it for him. Tell him, "You didn't finish school today before you began playing, so go move the spinner and put an X on Piece #1." No discussion. No begging. Remove yourself from the situation and let him go mark it.)
- 7. When the next infraction is committed, do the same as the previous step except say, "You forgot the trash again. Go move the spinner over to #2 and put an X on it. No movie on Friday night." (End discussion.)

8.	Continue in this manner until it gets close to his ultimate favorite. (This is why you might need an eight
piece	e pie if your child is characterized by not obeying or following through. Also, if he is characterized by that,
limit	the number of behaviors you are working on at the time to one or two.)

*This idea was adapted from a short presentation I heard in church many years ago. I looked it up online, but I cannot find it. I believe it was called Smart Parenting. I have made several changes to it in order to make it consistent with our Raising Kids With Character seminar foundations, but I did want to point out that the original idea came from elsewhere.

- **Whether you use the **four, six, or eight piece Consequence Pie** will be determined by many things:
 - **a.** Age of child—just choose one behavior and the four piece pie for younger children (or the six piece if behaviors are really out of control in that area).
 - **b.** Number of behaviors—if you are working on, responsibility, for example, and you want to work on three areas for your older teen (taking down the trash, finishing school by 2:00 without doing anything else except for his break, and doing evening chores between 4:00 and 4:30 without being reminded), you could use the eight piece pie and include all three behaviors on the list.

Sample Explanation of the Consequence Pie

"We are going to be working on some character issues with you. Specifically, we want you to change this one behavior (name it) or these two or three behaviors (name them). We have already trained you in your task. We have already rewarded you for doing them. Now it is time for you to make them your own. We will determine together what the consequences will be, and we will use this pie (the listing of things and the marking off of consequences) to help you learn to make these good behaviors your own, rather than the negative behaviors that we have been having."

behaviors/expectations: (name it)	
	(details as needed)

Piece #4

Piece #1

GRACE

Piece #3

GRACE

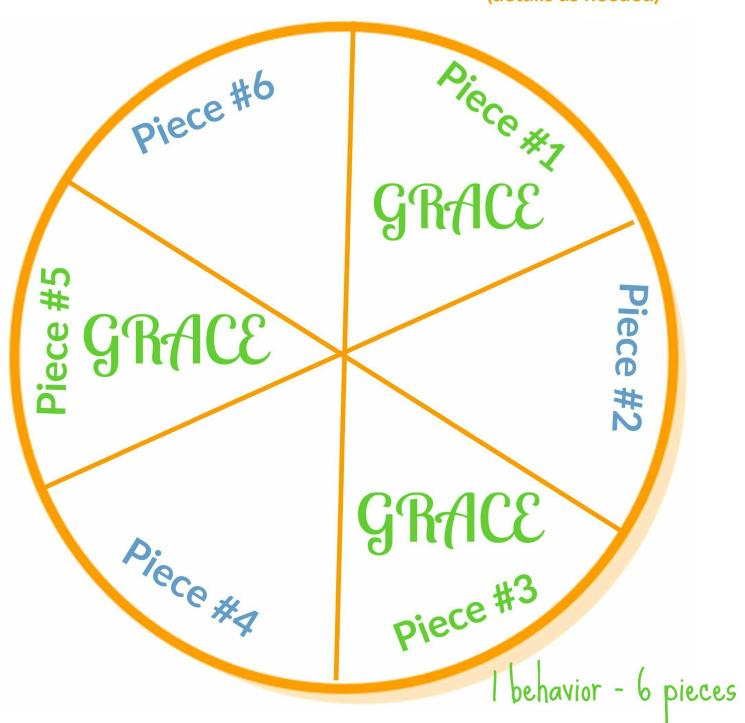
Piece #2

1 behavior - 4 pieces

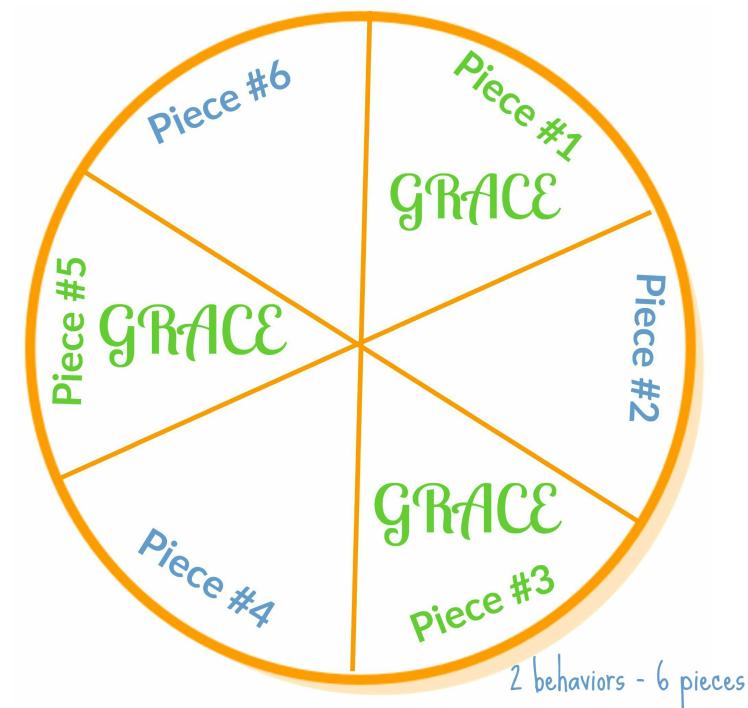
behaviors/expectations:

(name it)		

(details as needed)

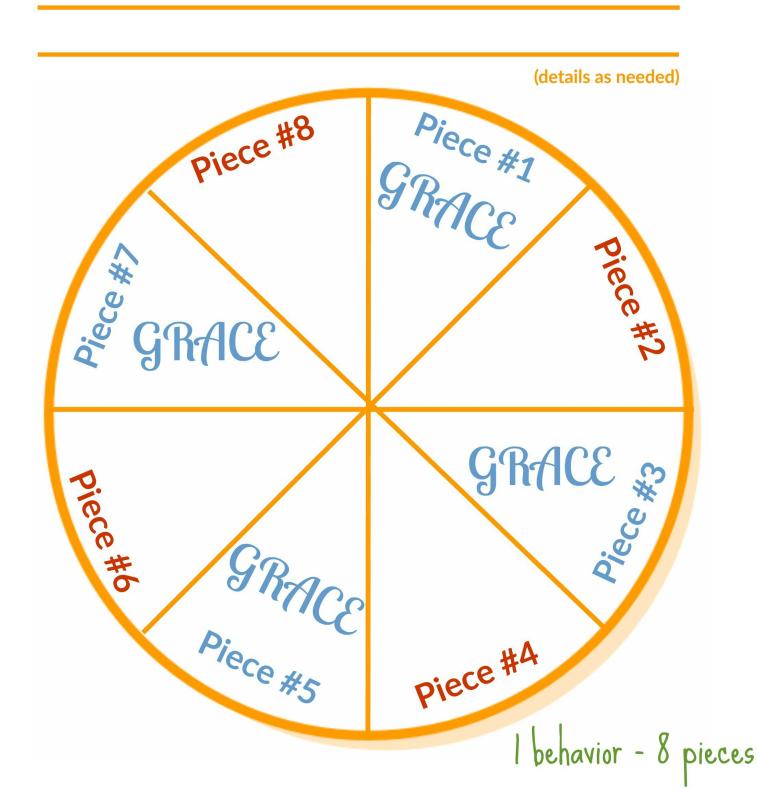


behaviors/expectations:	behaviors/expectations:
(name it)	(name it)
(details as needed)	(details as needed)



behaviors/expectations:

(name it)



behaviors/expectations:

(name it)	(name it)
(details as needed)	(details as needed)
Piece #8 Piece #8 ** GRACE	GRACE Piece #3
Piece #5 Piece #5	GRACE ** Piece **A 2 behaviors - 8 pieces

behaviors/expectations:

name it)	(details as needed)
Piece #8 Piece #8 GRACE	GRACC Piece #1
Piece #5	GRACE ** Piece #4 3 behaviors - 8 piece

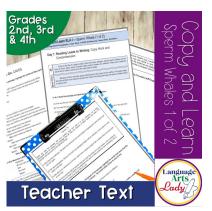
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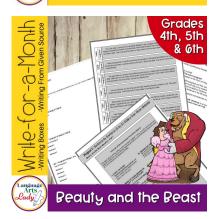
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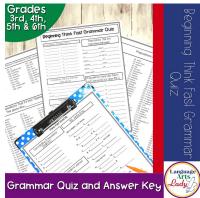


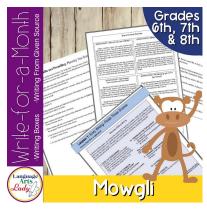




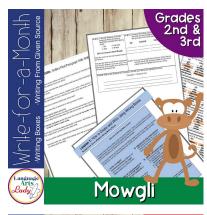




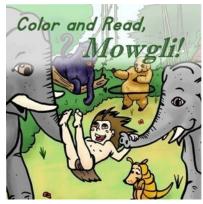














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Donna Reish, mother of seven grown children and thirty-two year homeschool veteran, is a prolific curriculum writer, blogger, and teacher from Indiana. She graduated from Ball State University with a degree in Elementary Education and did master's work in Reading Specialist following that. Donna began writing curriculum for a publisher out of Chicago specifically for homeschoolers twenty years ago. Following the completion of those thirty books

over ten years, she and her husband started a small press publishing company writing materials for homeschools and Christian schools. With the surge of digital products, Donna now writes curriculum books that are digital downloads (both secular and faith-based products), bringing her total curriculum products to 120 books of 50,000+pages. Donna tests all of her books with 50-80 in-person students each year locally before they are published--and this is her real love: Seeing the faces of students who achieve language arts goals that they never thought were possible using her creative, incremental approaches and materials. Donna teaches parents, teachers, and teacher parents, about grammar, language arts, writing, reading, learning, and more at her teaching website, *Language Arts Lady Blog*, and through her videocasts/podcasts, *How I Teach*.

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