

MISSION: INDEPENDENCE

2nd - 8th Graders:
Earn 250 points on your
quest to independence.

The 250 Challenge, sponsored by the Children’s Advisory Commission of Indiana County, is all about your growth, choices, and journey toward independence. Not every activity must be completed—pick what fits you, try new things, and even add your own ideas. Each activity helps you build skills and discover your strengths. Asking for help is part of growing, and keeping your parents or caregivers in the loop helps everyone feel safe and supported.

Celebrate every win, big or small—trying something new is progress!

Your mission: Earn 250 points by completing independent activities by July 31, 2026. Points depend on how bold or new each activity is. Each square on the pages at the end of this book is a place for you to share a piece of your story.

For each activity you complete, fill in one square with:

- Date you completed the activity
- Points you earned (based on the task list)
- Picture, Drawing, or Description of:
 - What you did
 - How it made you feel

Complete the Reflection Worksheet and submit that and your Challenge Packet to one of the participating locations:

- Burrell Township Library, Black Lick
- Lone Oak Farm, Marion Center
- The Paper Garden, Indiana
- Catty Wampus Co., Indiana

A takeaway from *Charlotte’s Web* by E.B. White, You never know what you can do until you try.

Rewards: Receive a prize for your efforts and be entered into the Grand Prize drawing on August 4, 2026!

Questions can be directed to the Children’s Advisory Commission of Indiana County at 724-463-8200 ext. 8 or cac@indianacountypa.gov You can also visit www.childrensadvisorycommission.org

Go Outside - 15 pts

Climb a tree

Ride your bike (bonus: no hands)

Race remote control cars

Frisbee! Tag! Frisbee Tag!

Get kids to come out and play

Have a picnic

Fly a kite

Rollerblade

Skateboard

Nerf battle

Hopscotch

Geocache

Jump rope

Go fishing

Watch the sun rise or set

Stargaze

Skip rocks

Dig a hole

Hike a local trail

Tracking animals in snow (noticing footprints and patterns)

Nature journaling

Shovel snow

Build a snow structures (snowmen, forts, walls)

Go sledding (pull your own sled)

Clean up outside

Football

Baseball

Four square

Jump rope

Soccer

Make up a game

Use chalk

Play catch with a friend or dog

Balance on something hard to

balance on

Pick up trash in your neighborhood

Go fishing

Walk a mile

Walk FIVE miles



Head to the Kitchen - 15 pts

Make yourself a snack

Find a new recipe and try it on your own

Make cookies

Boil water and make pasta

Make breakfast for your family

Make dinner for your family

Smoothies- made by you

Ice pops

Get Around - 15 pts

Run an errand

Ride your bike someplace or no place

Walk to a friend's

Visit a neighbor

Cross a street

Take a bus, train or ferry

Make a scavenger hunt

Get a present for a friend or relative

Find or make a hide--away

Flashlight tag

More flashlight tag

Get Growing -15 pts

Plant flowers that are good for butterflies

Grow something you can eat

Create your own container or fairy garden

Weed your garden

Water it too

Stay Cool - 15 pts

Run through sprinklers outside

Water balloon fights

Walk in the rain

Play in the mud

Invent a recipe for something cold

Go to the movies with friends

Sleep under the stars

Eat a meal outside

A good reminder from A.A. Milne, in Winnie The Pooh - You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.

Animal Time - 15 pts

- Walk the dog. (And scoop if you must! You must!)
- Pet sit for a neighbor or friend.
- Go to the pet store.
- Look for bugs.
- Catch a bug.
- Take on the pet chores in your house.
- Go bird watching in the park.
- Feed the birds.
- Teach your pet a new trick.
- Discover a new species! Good Luck!

Make It - 15 pts

- Make a fort outside
- Make a bird feeder
- Sew something
- Build an obstacle course
- Make art outside
- Build something you can use
- Make a sidewalk mural with chalk
- Make up a dance or gym routine and teach to a friend
- Paint rocks and leave them in your neighborhood for people to find
- Write and illustrate a story or comic
- Take apart something
- Put it back together
- Make something that has wheels
- Repair something
- Make (and bury) a time capsule

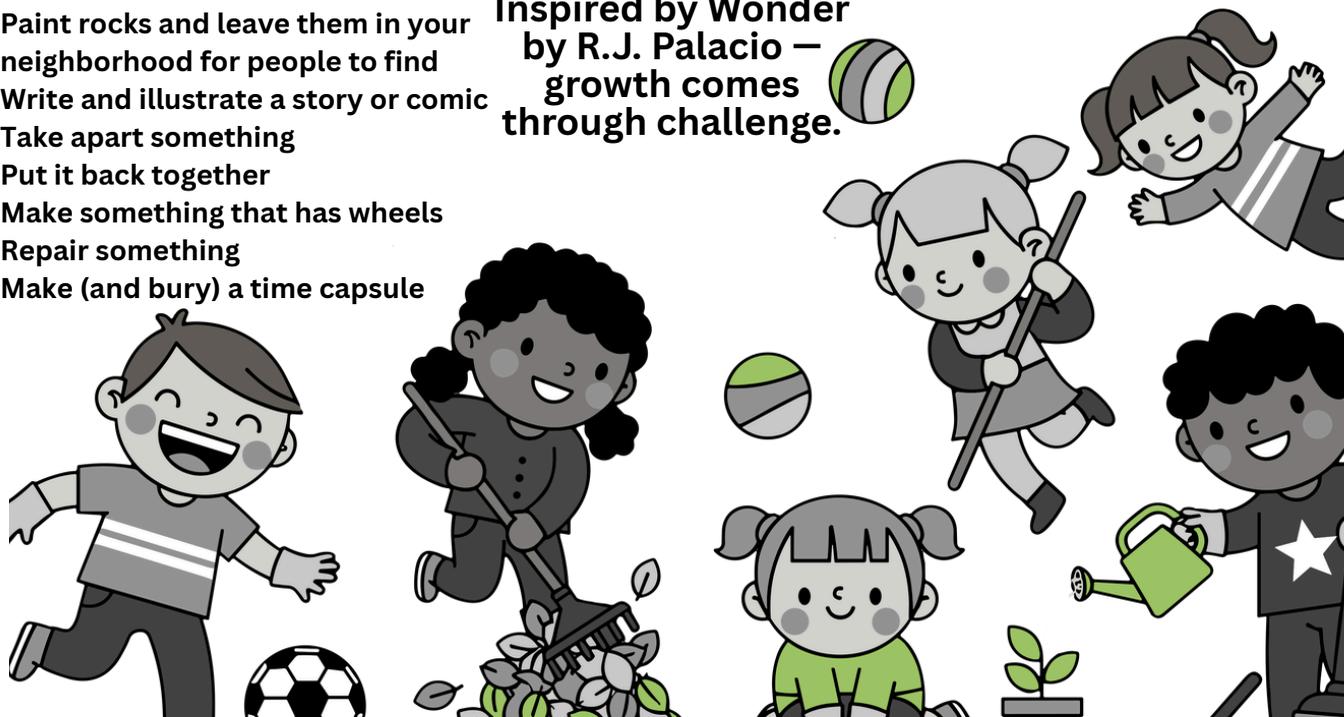
Help Out- 15 pts

- Tutor someone
- Watch a sibling
- Babysit a non-sibling
- Teach someone younger how to do something
- Clean out your room and donate something
- Write and mail a letter or card
- Hang art

Level Up - 15 pts

- Make your own haircut or dentist appointment
- Put air in a bike tire
- Fix a bike chain
- Mow the lawn
- Make a shopping list and shop
- Stay home alone
- Take cousins or siblings someplace
- Also bring them home
- Find out what Cattywampus means

Inspired by Wonder
by R.J. Palacio —
growth comes
through challenge.

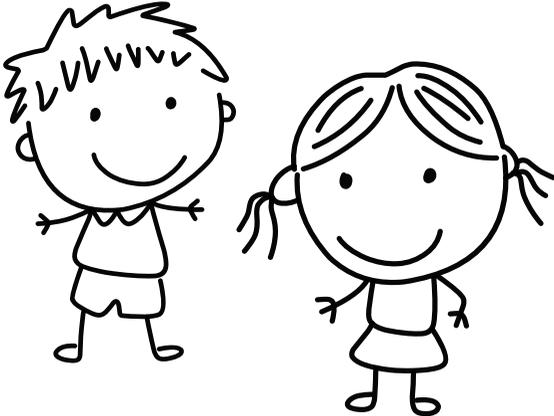


Go BIG! - 20 pts

- Paint a room
- Camp outside
- Find a part time job
- Have a no tv or electronics day
- Volunteer
- Organize a yard sale or lemonade stand
- Learn to play an instrument
- Put on a talent show for neighbors, etc.

- Market to Meal - shop for supplies & make a meal
- Order Up- order something on your own
- Sign up for a library card (an adult can assist you)
- Open a savings account (an adult can assist you)
- Ride the bus or take an uber/taxi.
- Made by Me - build/make something

If you don't make mistakes, you aren't really trying, is a theme from **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** by Jeff Kinney.



Additional Ideas - 10 points

- Sort out recyclables from the trash
- Pick up trash at a local park
- Decorate cards and write message for local seniors
- Create an at home compost bin
- Assemble snack bags and write messages for hungry neighbors
- Go for a hike/walk on the Ghost Town Trail, Hoodlebug Trail or Blairsville Riverfront Trails
- Visit the Blairsville Underground Railroad
- Tanoma Environmental Education Center
- Yellowcreek State Park
- Blue Spruce

Point Total:
Date:

Point Total:
Date:

Point Total:
Date:

Name:
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Reflection Page

What was your favorite activity, and why?

What's one thing you learned about yourself during this challenge?

Which activity was the hardest for you – and how did you handle it?

What's something new you'd like to try next?