

FOR PARENTS

A Quick Note On Interference

The most important part of this “adventure” your child is embarking on (and again, thank you for letting him/her participate) involves interference. Before the competition, each of our children will need to sign a “Declaration of Independence” which states simply that they received no outside help and that everything that they did was of their own doing. This is what makes DI so unique. The solutions are completely the result of the kids creativity, problem solving, and teamwork. So, to help you support your child’s DI experience, here are some things you can and cannot do:

Examples of what Parents (and Team Manager) CANNOT do:

- Solve any problems directly
- Suggest a single or specific idea
- Build or create an item
- Direct their skit
- Help with makeup
- Help fix a prop
- Suggest lines for their script
- Design or make costumes

Examples of what Parents (and Team Manager) CAN do:

- When they are stuck on something, ask them questions about why they cannot solve it
- Remind them of resources that can be used to come up with ideas (like driving them to the library)
- Drive them to the store to get supplies or you can pick up an item for them only if they specifically tell you what they want or give you a shopping list
- Teach them how to sew, glue, build, paint, etc., but your teaching cannot be done using items related to their solution. Any teaching must be in general terms on items not related to their challenge solution.
- Help transport and carry props and items to the tournaments or practices

This represents the most difficult aspect of DI, because as parents we want to help and not see our children struggle, but it is through their struggle that they not only learn, but also take ownership of what they’ve accomplished. Over the years DI kids have been really great at telling parents when they are overstepping the boundaries and interfering. Please respect that. We may know a “better way” of doing something and really want to suggest it, but our kids have to solve the challenge problems on their own. Again, we can teach so they do things safely, but we cannot do it for them. So their solution or problem solving process may not be the way we want it, but its not meant to be perfect; its just meant to be theirs and theirs alone.

The Hudson DI program has always done well with this in the past, but the importance of interference always bears repeating. Thanks again for letting your son/daughter participate and we are sure that you and your child will have a fun and positive experience. If you need more information, visit our website at www.hudsonwidi.org.