

GODDARD parent Tips

GODDARD SCHOOLS BRING CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER WITH TIPS FOR GETTING ALONG

“The Week of the Young Child,” created by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), is a great opportunity to discuss the needs of young children and families. To celebrate this year’s theme, “Bring Communities Together for Children – Children Bring Communities Together,” Goddard Schools across the country will embark on a week-long series of activities from April 19 – 25th including neighborhood parades, festivals, fundraisers, and other events which will emphasize the importance of giving back, even at a young age.

Children who learn the importance of courtesy, respect and taking care of others do better in school and have stronger self-esteem (*Character Education Partnership’s Report of Performance Character*, 2008). In addition to Goddard encouraging and developing these qualities in the classroom setting, it is important for parents to show compassion, kindness and charity in everyday interactions at home with family and community.

The early childhood development experts at Goddard created a character development and manners guide, **The Goddard School® Guide to Getting Along**. It offers the following ideas that you can incorporate into your daily routine:

1. RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Whether it’s picking up litter as you go for a walk, letting an older adult go first in the supermarket line or holding a door for someone, allow your child to see you engage in small acts of kindness without being asked or expecting anything in return.

2. VOLUNTEER WITH YOUR CHILD

Volunteering can be a fun and positive experience for both you and your little one. Bake cookies together and take them to a local shelter or make lemonade for a Habitat for Humanity construction crew. Or simply ask your child what chores he/she would like to “volunteer” to do at home.

3. TAKING CARE

Taking care of a pet or plant can help a child learn about responsibility and caring. Have your child help you water the plants in your home or feed your family pet together. You can even combine volunteering and caring by walking an elderly neighbor’s dog.

4. BEING CHARITABLE

Charity has the most meaning when a child is giving up something of his or her own. As part of a birthday celebration ask your child what old toy he or she wishes to donate to a local charity in order to make room for a new toy. Collect a few favorite books and offer to donate and read them to other children at the local library. Your child can also earn allowance money and give it to a local charity by doing some simple extra chores at home.

5. DEMONSTRATE COMPASSION

Parents can help young children develop a sense of the feelings of others and demonstrate compassion. As you read to your child, discuss how the characters in the story are feeling. Play simple board games to provide opportunities for your child to learn how to take turns and play fair. Your child can help a younger child with simple tasks such as tying shoes, picking up toys or putting on a coat.



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