

Teaching Empathy If we surround ourselves with people who are just like us, we have a tendency to have less empathy for others who are

If we surround ourselves with people who are just like us, we have a tendency to have less empathy for others who are different. Empathy can be developed, and as parents, we have a responsibility to our children to guide them toward understanding how others feel and being compassionate. The core of empathy is curiosity, so when your child is curious about someone who is different, help him see the value in that person.

Children start to show genuine empathy at a very early age. Not only do they feel another person's pain, but they try to soothe it. Label the feeling and discuss the importance of caring about other people. If you model compassionate behavior and praise your child when he shows empathy, this important emotional connection to others is reinforced. Point out other people's behavior and discuss how it makes him feel.

Teach your child to be aware of both verbal and nonverbal cues to help him understand why others behave the way they do.

Also, teach basic rules of politeness as a way to show respect for others and to understand the benefits of being kind.

Give your child tasks that help him learn responsibility, so he can experience the joy of helping others. Set a positive example by including him in acts of kindness and charity, and explain why you choose to serve others.

Encourage your child to have a diverse circle of friends, and he will learn to value each individual for their own special traits.

Character Trait

This month's Character Trait is Respect. You can help your child at home by continuing to have them identify respectful behavior:

- · Be a good listener
- Respect others' personal space and belongings
- Be polite, be kind, and use good manners

Staff Birthdays

Ms. Kendall - September 28

Dates to Remember

September 2 National College Colors Day (Wear your favorite college colors!)

September 9 National Teddy Bear Day (Bring your teddy bear to school!)

> September 11 Remembrance Day (Wear red, white & blue)

Labor Day

Remember that we will be closed on Labor Day, September 5. On this day, we pay tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. Labor Day weekend also symbolizes the end of summer and the beginning of the school year.

Family Photos

Each classroom is creating a family wall, so please send photos to your child's teacher.

Welcome New Staff!

Ms. Riley K. Ms. Bailey A. Ms. Hayley M.

Staff Anniversaries

Ms. Tiffany - August 17 Ms. Abigail - August 18 Ms. Baylee - August 23 Ms. Brandi - August 25

Grandparents Day

We would like to invite all grandparents to join us on Friday, September 9, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. for Pastries on the Go.

We are grateful for your being our heroes, someone to lean on, and our best friends.

Staff Spotlight

Congratulations to Ms. Tiffany, Ms. Abigail, Ms. Baylee and Ms. Brandi for celebrating their one-year anniversaries with EDCDC. Each one of you has an impact in the lives of the children you teach, and your dedication to your work is greatly appreciated.

September Birthdays

Anna Grace - September 1 Hadley - September 7 Graham - September 17 Harper - September 17 Rylee S. - September 17 Henry - September 24 Alex - September 25