

December 2018

Character Value: Generosity

Teaching Generosity at Home

During the holiday season, it's easy for children—and us as parents too—to forget that the act of giving or sharing isn't just about tangible objects, such as toys. Generosity can also be about giving time and attention. It is a selfless act that benefits others.

Kiddie Academy teachers find opportunities during the day when children can practice giving, whether it is materials in the classroom or attention. Teachers focus on helping the child identify the emotional results of giving as a way to promote it in the future.

Learning about generosity certainly doesn't end when the school day does. Here are some ways you can teach and practice generosity at home with your children:

Read the Classics. The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein has been around since 1964, but it is still a relevant way to help children learn about the act of giving. Afterwards, ask your child what they can give besides toys. Think about smiles, hugs or even cookies to a friend.

Practice Sharing. Teach by example, "Would you like to share your blocks with me?" Whether it be sharing your turkey sandwich or sharing an electronic device, continually reinforce the idea of sharing with your child. The more you use the word "share" and explain why you share, the sooner she'll learn what it means. And praise her when she does share!

Help Others in Need. This time of year is a terrific time to introduce—reinforce—the idea of giving and sharing. It will set the tone for a new year of generosity! Ask your child to pick out clothes or toys they no longer want and explain to them how these items are helping others. Being generous to others does not always include items; helping sweep a neighbor's walkway or pick up their paper.

Mind Your Manners. Teaching your child to say "thank you" isn't just about being polite; it's showing them how to accept others' generosity.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

12/02 Jeremiah	12/15 Neah	12/22 Ms. Barbara N
12/03/ Je'ana	12/22 Guillermo	
12/04 Jemima	12/25 Johnathan	
12/08 Nafari	12/28 Stephan	
12/09 Rondell	12/31 Soriah	

Generosity: Giving as You are Receiving

"I cut. You choose." The age-old process for envy-free cake-cutting between two people (where one person cuts, one chooses the side they want first and the cutter receives the remaining piece) is an exercise in generosity and sharing no matter what your age. Each party both wants a sizable portion of their preferred side of the cake, but both have opportunities to consider the other person's wants and feelings. Both have an opportunity to exercise generosity.

Generosity is a character trait most parents want their children to possess. However, giving selflessly to others and sharing cherished belongings or gifts can be a challenge for young children. This holiday season, whether you celebrate Hanukkah at home, Christmas with family or another treasured tradition, here are a few considerations for fostering a generous spirit with your children:

Talk to your kids about how giving helps: Studies show that parents who talk to their children about charitable giving can positively impact their children's philanthropic behavior later on. Have a conversation within the family about how we give back, whether money, time or energy, and who we give back to. Talk about the tremendous difference it can make in your community.

Give as you receive: Prepare for the gifts your family will receive before the holiday begins by donating toys, clothes, shoes, coats and other goods to causes in your community. Kids can learn to be thankful for the things they have by donating the toys they no longer use.

Practicing generosity at home: Encourage your children to identify ways in which they can help a family member or sibling with a chore, making a meal or homework. Model a generous spirit for your children by having them help to make a meal for a friend, deliver a box of outgrown clothes to charity or volunteer. It's important for our children to learn that generosity does not always involve money. Cut a piece of cake as a family and talk about how to practice generosity just by cutting and choosing.

Focus on the emotional results of generosity and the good feelings it produces as a way to promote further generosity. After all, giving is the greatest gift.

Happy Holidays!



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DECEMBER

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3  ANGEL Tree Project - Visit our Tree and Select an Angel Dec 3-14	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Angel Tree Project Ends	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Holiday Party All Classrooms	22
23	24 Center Closed	25 Merry Christmas Center Closed	26	27	28	29
30	31 Center Closes at 2 PM	1	2	3	4	5