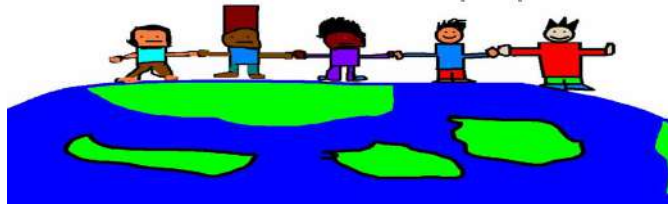


October's Character: Tolerance

Social Skill: Communication- Verbal and Nonverbal

Tolerance means...
appreciating and respecting
differences in people.



Definitions of Tolerance

Elementary: Tolerance is getting along with people who are different.

Secondary: Tolerance is openness and respect for the differences that exist among people.

Related Words

multicultural respect beliefs diversity acceptance culture
differences stereotypes fairness understanding respect

Tolerance

Every person is special and unique in their own right. Tolerance is accepting that every person is different, and giving each person room to do their own thing. Tolerance is understanding and respecting that people have different cultures and are different nationalities. And, because we come from different cultures, we have a variety of different skin, hair and eye color. Treating all people with respect and understanding our differences makes the world far more interesting. Our world is filled with people who have different talents, gifts and skills that we bestow on each other.

Activities:

1. Compliment day. Have children practice giving compliments. Make a list of compliments to choose from in case children need help. Make sure every child receives a compliment.

2. In character education, tolerance means acceptance. Discuss the difference in tolerating and accepting. (Accepting means not to pre-judge on appearance or customs that are strange to us). There are situations no one should tolerate such as lying, stealing, or abuse. In this case find a trusted adult to talk to.

3. We may look different from each other, but otherwise people all over the world are alike. Brainstorm all of the ways people are alike. (Food, shelter, clothing, need to feel loved, need air to stay alive, grow old...).

4. Stereotypes; Representations that are not accurate, or, an oversimplified standardized image of a person or group. Make a list of stereotypes such as, all Italians can sing, all girls are not good at math.

Tolerance in Action: What Makes a Person Tolerant?

- Realize there is more than one way to do things.
- Are willing to share the pain or joy of others.
- Are sensitive and concerned about the feelings of others—they don't make ethnic jokes or criticize cultural issues.
- Include those less skillful in group activities.
- Keep their values.
- Are willing to learn about the culture of others



LESSONS FOR TEACHING ABOUT TOLERANCE

"The highest result of education is tolerance." -- Helen Keller

Helen Keller's words serve as a reminder of the key role educator's play in teaching tolerance. Education World provides five lessons focused on messages of tolerance. Click each of the five lesson headlines below and those in the additional resources section for a complete teaching resource. Appropriate grade levels for each lesson appear in parentheses.

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/03/lp294-01.shtml

"Bursting" Stereotypes Balloons serve as the conduit for this lesson in which students "burst" stereotypes. (Grades 2-12)

How Tolerant Are Kids in Your School? Students graph results of a survey of attitudes and tolerance in their school. (Grades 6-12)

Those Tear-Me-Apart, Put-Me-Back-Together, Never-Be-the-Same-Again Blues This powerful activity illustrates how unkind words can hurt. (Grades Pre-K-8)

Teaching About Tolerance Through Music Invite students to analyze the lyrics of Peter, Paul and Mary songs that express themes of tolerance. (Grades 3-12)

Everybody Is Unique: A Lesson in Respect for Others' Differences Teach about respect for others' unique qualities in this lesson that combines art and language arts. (Grades K-8)

Long-Leg Lou and Short Leg Sue

By Shel Silverstein

Long Leg Lou and Short Leg Sue, Went for a walk down the avenue,
Laughin' and jokin' like good friends do, Long-Leg Lou and Short-Leg Sue.

Says Long Leg Lou to Short Leg Sue, "Can't you walk faster than you do?
It really drives me out of my mind that I'm always in front, and you're always behind."

Says Short Leg Sue to Long Leg Lou, "I walk as fast as I'm meant to do". "Then I'll go walking with someone new," Says Long Leg Lou to Short Leg Sue.

Now Long Leg Lou, he walks alone, Looking for someone with legs like his own.
And sometimes he thinks of those warm afternoons, back when he went walkin' with Short Leg Sue.

And Short Leg Sue strolls down the street, Hand in hand with Slow Foot Pete.
And they take small steps and they do just fine, And no one's in front and no one's behind.

Questions

1. Explain your interpretation of this poem.
2. What moral lesson does it teach?
3. How and why is it an important subject?
4. Discuss differences other than physical ones.
5. Why is it important to tolerate differences?

Tolerance Quotes

**"Our most common link is that we all inhabit this planet. We all breathe the same air."
President John F. Kennedy**

**"Never look down on someone else unless you are helping them up."
Jesse Jackson**

**"Share our similarities; celebrate our differences."
M. Scott Peck**

**"Judge a tree from its fruit, not from its leaves."
Euripides**

**"The only way to have a friend is to be one."
Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Reading List



I Go to School: An Interactive Reading Book, by Joan Green. Designed to be used for pre-reading skills at many levels, including special education children—grades PreK-up.

Q is for Duck: An Alphabet Guessing Game, by Mary Etling. While learning some facts about animals, the reader is challenged to guess why A is for zoo, B is for dog, and C is for hen—ages 4–8.

Badness for Beginner's: A Little Wolf and Smellybreff Adventure, by Ian Whybrow. Little Wolf and his brother Smellybreff get a lesson in badness from Mom and Dad. Etiquette for children and teenagers. Ages 5-8.

Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by Doreen Rappaport—Appropriate for all grade levels.

Coraline, by Neil Gaiman. Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet different from her own. Supernatural—Ages 8 and up.

Mamy Wata and the Monster, by Veronique Tadjo. A beautiful, magical tale drawn from the richness of African culture and folklore, with rhythmic text and stunning, vibrant illustrations—Ages 8-17.

Horrible Harry and the Christmas Surprise, by Suzy Kline. When their teacher ends up in the hospital, the members of class 2B find a way to include her in their holiday celebration. Ages 10 and up.

Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins, by Carole Boston Weatherford. The 1960 civil rights sit-ins are seen through the eyes of a young Southern black girl—Ages 10 and up.

The Missing Chums, by Franklin W. Dixon. A series of bizarre events in their hometown lead the Hardy Boys on a trail of robbers and kidnapers.—Ages 10 and up.

A Sweet Smell of Roses, by Angela Johnson. A stirring glimpse of the youth involvement in the Civil Rights movement—ages 11-18.

The House on the Cliff, by Franklin W. Dixon. Teenage detectives Frank and Joe Hardy investigate a supposedly haunted house. Ages 11 and up.

I Have Feelings, Too! An interactive Reading Book of Emotions for Teens, Adults, and Seniors, by Joan Green.



Parent Power

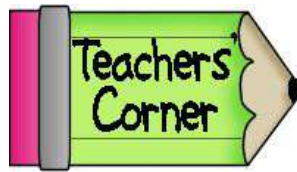
How can Parents teach Tolerance?

Parents can teach tolerance by example — and in other ways, too. Talking together about tolerance and respect helps kids learn more about the values you want them to have. Giving them opportunities to play and work with others is important as well. This lets kids learn firsthand that everyone has something to contribute and to experience differences and similarities.

Things parents can do to help kids learn tolerance include:

1. Notice your own attitudes. Parents who want to help their kid's value diversity can be sensitive to cultural stereotypes they may have learned and make an effort to correct them. Demonstrate an attitude of respect for others.
2. Remember that kids are always listening. Be aware of the way you talk about people who are different from your-self. Do not make jokes that perpetuate stereotypes. Although some of these might seem like harmless fun, they can undo attitudes of tolerance and respect.
3. Select books, toys, music, art, and videos carefully. Keep in mind the powerful effect the media and pop culture have on shaping attitudes.
4. Point out and talk about unfair stereotypes that may be portrayed in media.
5. Answer kids' questions about differences honestly and respectfully. This teaches that it is acceptable to notice and discuss differences as long as it is done with respect.
6. Acknowledge and respect differences within your own family. Demonstrate acceptance of your children's differing abilities, interests, and styles. Value the uniqueness of each member of your family.
7. Remember that tolerance does not mean tolerating unacceptable behavior. It means that everyone deserves to be treated with respect — and should treat others with respect as well
8. Help your children feel good about themselves. Kids who feel badly about themselves often treat others badly. Kids with strong self-esteem value and respect themselves and are more likely to treat others with respect, too. Help your child to feel accepted, respected, and valued.
9. Give kids opportunities to work and play with others who are different from them. When choosing a school, day camp, or child-care facility for your child, find one with a diverse population.
10. Learn together about holiday and religious celebrations that are not part of your own tradition.
11. Honor your family's traditions and teach them to your kids — and to someone outside the family who wants to learn about the diversity *you* have to offer.

When parents encourage a tolerant attitude in their children, talk about their values, and model the behavior they would like to see by treating others well, kids will follow in their footsteps.



The following activities and short lessons will help to create an atmosphere of acceptance in the classroom and school.

- ❖ Teach students about the stages of anger and ask them to write down examples of when they were at each stage.
- ❖ Discuss the role of intolerance in our anger.
- ❖ Identify a group or school conflict and discuss it in light of —I/II or —Win/WinI statements.
- ❖ Discuss how tolerant we are of persons with disabilities. How can we show acceptance of them? Students can gain empathy for the visually impaired by being blindfolded and feeling their way around or gain understanding of the deaf by watching TV with no sound. Have students write about their feelings.
- ❖ Discuss how our choices of entertainment influence our tolerance for others. Brainstorm with the class to list popular movies that show either violence or tolerance. Poll the students to see how many had seen each movie.
- ❖ Divide the students into groups to research and discuss potential problems in your community that relate to tolerance. Have them present the problem and a potential solution to the class. Provide current newspapers as a research base.
- ❖ Discuss the contributions made to our country by different ethnic groups. Lead students in identifying the different ethnic groups living in your community or county.
- ❖ Have children exchange lunch partners occasionally. This provides opportunities for them to experience many different personalities and maybe even customs. (Check out www.mixitup.org for some great ideas for your class and school wide projects.)
- ❖ Incorporate classroom activities that focus on identifying similarities and differences. For example, ask questions like how many children have a missing tooth, how many like grapefruit, how many speak more than one language, how many were born in September, or how many are wearing red.

References and Websites:

<http://www.polk-fl.net/staff/resources/documents/keystocharacter/March2011.pdf>

<http://www.lorinda-charactereducation.com/p/patience-tolerance-respect-fairness.html>

www.bullying.org— interactive games

www.tolerance.org—school wide projects articles and lesson plans

www.mixitup.org—instructions for mix it up activities and dialogue groups—free handbook

www.kidshealth.org—articles for parents, teens, kids and research news

www.goodcharacter.com—lesson plans and articles

www.educationworld.com—coloring pages, and activities

www.diversitycouncilors/eActivities.shtm.—early elementary multicultural lesson plans and links to other sites to spotlight selected activities.