

# Character Education

## "Caring" Grades K-4

### **DEFINITION:**

Caring is feeling and showing concern for others by being kind and helpful and not expecting anything in return.

Other Caring Words: Kindness, Empathy, Compassion, Consideration, Patience, Generosity, Charity

### **STUDENT ACTIVITIES:**

- Have students brainstorm other words for "caring."
- Brainstorm different ways to show caring acts to others.
- Have students role play caring acts.
- Have students write and direct a play that teaches caring. Perform the play for younger students.
- Have students draw, illustrate, or write about a time that someone showed care toward them and/or a time that they showed care toward another person.
- Share your OWN stories of caring and kindness with your students.
- Have students (or as a class) write and illustrate a short story about caring and read it to a younger student (or younger grade level).
- Make a Caring Chart to tally your students' kind acts in and out of the classroom. Celebrate when you reach a certain amount of caring acts.
- Have students write a letter to someone they care about.
- Have each student write one compliment to another child in the class.
- Talk about a Random Act of Kindness. Have students choose a person they would like to do something kind for. Ask students to leave an anonymous note telling why the person was chosen.
- Make a bulletin board or wall of caring. Have students write kind/caring things on paper hearts. Give students a heart to complete and hang on the bulletin board or wall when they see others doing something kind or caring for someone else. See how many hearts are collected.

- Have students show care by having a canned food drive to collect food for a shelter or families in need. Have them collect gloves, mittens, coats, etc. during the winter months or toys for children in need. Collect school supplies at the beginning of school for those students who are in need.
- Have students draw pictures, make cards, or write letters to elderly people in the community or to people living in a nursing home.
- Challenge students to find books, newspaper articles, news stories, or magazine articles that talk about caring and bring them in to share with their classmates. See how many they can come up with!
- Have students make a thank-you card for a mail carrier, firefighter, or school staff person.
- Have children share during a class meeting about a time they did a random act of kindness for someone and how it felt. Younger children can draw a picture and tell about it. Assemble drawings into a paper quilt on a bulletin board.
- Put photos of kind acts in hearts on the classroom or hallway walls. Donate the display to a local hospital, nursing home or senior center.

#### **SOURCES:**

Yeomanson, Victoria *Role Playing/or Empathy*. Las Vegas, Nevada: Silvestri Junior High School.  
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Lewis, Barbara A. *What Do You Stand For: A Kid's Guide to Building Character*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Free Spirit Works for Kids, 1998.

<http://www.actsofkindness.org>

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nccep/lp/lp99v.html>

<http://www.learningtogive.org>